METRO / A19
Actor Richard Gutierrez fine after Cavite car accident but aide dies

SPORTS / A26
Nuggets even series with Lakers

BUSINESS / B1
SMC to buy 49% of Liberty Telecom

NEWS / A2
Noli still tops presidential bets list of a merged Kampi-Lakas

Robobama: For Disney, not the wax museum

LOS ANGELES—IT'S not another night at the wax museum. It's a Disney production of the US president known as "Robotica."

Barack Obama was

ROBOBAMA A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, May 23, 2009 ★ Vol. 24 / No. 164 online: www.inquirer.net

GK, 'Couples:' Divorced, but still friends

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE COUPLES FOR CHRIST YESTERDAY disagreed with Lingayen Archbishop Oscar Cruz's instructions to Pangasinan parishes to close the Gawad Kalinga (GK), the social action group that it founded but with which it has had serious policy disagreements.

CFC top officials said its members would continue to support the projects of GK—whose program to build homes for the needy has been a runaway suc-

GK COUPLES A3

Girl with flu recovering

Health authorities looking for 17 on the same flight

By Norman Bordadora, TJ Burgonio and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HERE'S GOOD NEWS INVOLVING THE FIRST FILIPINO found positive for the influenza A(H1N1) virus.

The 10-year-old girl who had come from the United States with her parents is now on the way to recovery, the Department of Health announced yesterday morning.

"The patient is recovering... She has no more fever. The only has a sore throat," Health Undersecretary Mario Villaverde told reporters in a news conference.

Villaverde also said "the closest contact," the mother of the so-called "index case," had been tested for the virus, with negative results.

"That is the good news," he said, adding: "Based on [indications], it looks like this is contained."

But anyone tracing on the 17 passengers who sat near the child in the plane back to the Philippines was instructed following the investigation conducted on Thursday when the child was found positive for the deadly virus, according to Bureau of Quarantine officer Mario Vazquez.

There being no "community-level outbreak," as Villaverde said in another briefing at the Palace, President Macapagal-Arroyo gave the Department of Education the green light to proceed with the opening of classes scheduled early next month.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus told the Inquirer that public elementary and high schools would open as scheduled on June 1.

GIRL A14

WANTED: 17 PASSENGERS seated three seats away by the side, in front and the back of the stricken 10-year-old inside the plane, says Dr. Mario Vasquez of the Bureau of Quarantine. BY

"BE VIGILANT, BUT DON'T PANIC," Health Undersecretary Mario Villaverde says during a Palace briefing. **"What we have right now is just one index case which we have contained."**

Take care, but don't panic—Palace

By the Inquirer Staff

BECAUSE THE PHILIPPINES' "INDEX case" on the dreaded Influenza A(H1N1) has been contained, the public should not be alarmed but must take to prioritize proper hygiene as a precautionary measure against infection, Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said yesterday.

"We should not allow the problem to paralyze us as a nation. We should take all the necessary precautions, but we have to go about our business of making a living, our business of serving our people," Remonde said in a joint briefing with Health Undersecretary Mario Villaverde in Malacañang.

"Panic and alarm are always our worst enemy when confronted with a public threat," Remonde added.

To avoid the human-to-human transmission of the virus, Villaverde reminded the public of proper personal hygiene habits such as frequent hand washing, covering the mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing and properly disposing of it, and practicing social distancing.

"We must be vigilant, we must be cautious," he said.

Public elementary and high schools will open as originally scheduled on June 1, according to Education Secretary Jesli Lapus. (See story on this page.)

"We don't need to postpone the school opening," said Dr. Soe Nyunt-U.

TAKE CARE A10

"MOTHER OF ALL TAPES" is held up by lawyer Samuel Ong but as a learned man, he never got to present it himself.

'Hello Garci' whistle-blower is dead

By Kristine L. Alave

SAMUEL ONG WILL NEVER KNOW the ending on the political scandal he helped unravel in 2005 that nearly toppled a Philippine president.

The former National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) deputy director, the main whistle-blower in the wiretapping and electoral fraud allegation against President Macapagal-Arroyo, died yesterday of complications from lung cancer.

The trial for Ong, 64, came in a coma at the intensive care unit of the Chinese General Hospital shortly after 4 p.m.

He had just been visited by deposed President Joseph Estrada and actor Rey Cortez when he died, family members said.

"He died just a few minutes after we left," Cortez told the Inquirer.

Ong's elder brother Henry said the former NBI official was a chain smoker.

Cortez said Ong was on respirator and awoke when he and Estrada saw him at the ICU.

"He recognized Erap, nanunuyapitngo siya pawang nag-guguwang sabihan Erap Presidente (He just kept nodding his head, as if he wanted to say something to the President)," Cortez said.

He said Estrada told Ong he was a hero and asked him to be strong. The former President also told the family that he would not forget what Ong did for the sake of truth.

On learning of Ong's death, Estrada said in a statement: "He was a brave

HELLO A4

In shunning trial, Villar is doing a Ninoy

By Jaime Arroyo

THE SENATE IS EMBARKING ON A very dangerous experiment.

In its 93-year history since the first Senate of 1916, the power of the Senate to

COMMENTARY

"punish its members for disorderly behavior" was never used by those hunting for the country's leadership, the presidentiables in the present instance, as a mechanism to destroy a front-runner for the presidency.

Those six words in the Constitution are meant to discipline members. The Senate presidentiables have misused the power to cut down an opponent.

The P200-million Villar insertion in the 2008 budget which he does not deny, started when it was incorporated in

BUDGLOBBING A2

Hayden breaks silence, says sorry for sex video

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AFTER THE KISSING AND telling—and raping—comes the apologizing.

Hayden Kho, the celebrity doctor who by his own admission videotaped his bedroom encounters with women, including actress Katrina Halili, without their knowledge and consent, is saying "sorry" for his actions.

Yesterday, a repentant Kho appeared on television and said: "I deeply regret what has happened because of my poor judgment ... All I feel now is deep remorse. I know it's too much to ask for forgiveness, but I hope someday people can learn to condemn the sin and not the sinner."

In an earlier statement sent to media outlets late Thursday, Kho said that "the filming of an intimate, strictly personal and private act is most unfortunate and truly regrettable, and I sincerely apologize for the harm it has done to other parties."

He pleaded absence of malice, and claimed that the recordings were uploaded on the Internet and reproduced in DVDs "without my knowledge and consent."

Halili, who accused Kho of videotaping their sexual encounter without her knowledge and consent, has asked the Professional Regulation Commission

HAYDEN A4

"BEYOND THE USUAL." The Department of Tourism partnering with domestic tour operators and ABS-CBN's "Kapit Bisig sa Pasig" offers visitors to the City of Our Affections of exploring it "Beyond the Usual." Its first sortie on Thursday integrates the Pasig Ferry Cruise and Binondo Culinary Walking Tour. The tour's air-conditioned ferry holds 150 people and passes historical sites with a well-trained DOT guide.

Villar, allies ask SC to stop Senate probe

By Norman Bordadora

ACCUSING FELLOW SENAtors of unabashed "dictatorial tendencies," Sen. Manuel Villar and his Senate minority colleagues yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop the upper chamber from investigating allegations that Villar benefited from a multibillion-peso road project in southern Metro Manila.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel personally filed the petition for preliminary injunction following a vote in the Senate to put Villar on trial based on an ethics complaint filed by Sen. Ana Consuelo Madrigal against the ousted Senate President.

The signatories to the petition were Villar himself, Pimentel, senators Juker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan, Alan Peter Cayetano and Pia Cayetano.

They argued that the public trial, or so-called "adjudicatory" hearings, to be conducted by the Senate Committee of the Whole would violate Villar's constitutional rights.

"Petitioners have no objection to an investigation of the allegations against Senator Villar in a fair and impartial manner that does not contravene the strictures of the Constitution if only to preserve the integrity of the Senate as an institution," the 20-page petition read.

"[Petitioners] object vehemently to the unabashed display of dictatorial tendencies by the Chair of the Senate Committee of the Whole abetted by a majority of its members that abuse the most basic right of individuals, including that of a

VILLAR A5

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2 2D 9 16 28 | 5UBTRES 4 2 6 | 4D 0 4 9 | 6D 2 7 8 | MEGALOTTO 6/45 5 6 15 32 31 32 P36,405,959.40

Lakas-Kampi merger finally set

Noli still tops list of administration's presidential bets

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE MARRIAGE OF THE TWO RULING PARTIES, Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (CMD) and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), will finally take place next week, to be officiated by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to Lakas Executive Director Raymundo Roquero, the merger of the biggest political party in the country since the 1986 Edsa revolt" will be signed on May 28 at the Manila Hotel. "The merged parties will be called Lakas Kampi CMD," he added.

"It will somehow be the official strength of the opposition," he added, when asked if the merged administration party could defeat the tickets of possible opposition presidential candidates, Jejomar Lorenzo Legarda, Mar Roxas, Perfecto Lacson and Manuel Villar.

Roquero said the pact would be signed on the final day of a 45-day period set by the President when she designated Executive Secretary Gabriel Claudio chair of the National Commission on Unification to go over the terms of the final agreement.

The merger sets the stage for the formal selection of the administration's standard-bearer in the 2010 presidential race.

"It's still Vice President Noli de Castro at the top of list. He has always been an unified kampi supporter. Of course, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro has always wanted to be named the administration candidate. He said he would run only if he is the official candidate," Roquero added.

Roquero said Lakas and Kampi had agreed to unite on the "basic principle that political parties should have an ideology, offer a program of government and reject personality politics as the basis for seeking public office."

The Lakas official said the merger would disprove the claim that the ruling President would have a hard time to win her post in office.

"The merged party consolidates the President's major supporters, giving her a very strong political bond, sure for a Chief Executive whose term expires in 2010," Roquero said.

The new party retains the Christian Muslim democratic ideology and the principle of people empowerment that came with the founding of Lakas-NUCD in 1992 under President Fidel Ramos's leadership. Incorporated were Kampi's major principles for new governance and social justice that the President initiated as the party's founding leader.

According to Roquero, Lakas has 38 governors, while Kampi has 17, giving the new party re-sanctuary in 58 of the country's 80 provinces.

TOURISM JOB FAIR

Hundreds of job applicants trooped to the "Trabaho sa Turismo Manila 2009" job fair at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia on Friday. JAY ISRAEL

Teodoro cautions CA on Gadian's amparo bid

By Jocelyn R. Uy

DEFENSE SECRETARY GILBERT TEODORO yesterday asked the Court of Appeals to exercise circumspection when it resolves a motion on the petition for a writ of amparo of Navy Lt. Ronny Gadian, saying it could affect the system imposing disciplinary measures on soldiers being charged in military courts.

"We are hoping the court will be careful in reviewing the petition and the circumstances behind it so well as granting such relief as they would affect the chain of command and the implementation of the disciplinary system in the military," Teodoro told reporters during the Navy's anniversary celebration at Fort Bonifacio (Fort) in Manila.

The appellate court is expected to hear the petition on May 26, and to hand down its ruling 10 days after it was submitted for decision.

Teodoro's ruling military court said in the Efrenio Red Separation Board's (ERB) exclusionary proceedings for certain officers could follow Gadian's lead by seeking relief through the writ of amparo or trade trial, he added.

Gadian has yet to surface after the court on air last week on Bonifacio Realyo in Iloilo City and accused retired Lt. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, chief of the Western Mindanao Command, and other generals of pocketing over P40 million in funds intended for the RP-U.S. Balikatan exercises in 2007.

Teodoro added that the 40 boat guns procured by the Philippine Navy in Cadiz is for use to replace vessels already "worn and weakened" after the Supreme Court granted on Thursday a petition for Gadian's protection filed earlier by his mother, Norma Dimaporo. The 40-hour deadline ended yesterday.

With the petition granted by the high court, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has been restrained from implementing the "apprehension alarm" issued against Gadian for failing to return to work on April 22, after the week-a-10-day leave.

Gadian is facing charges of kandestinas (lies and lavish spending) in the ESB. The board has conducted 12 hearings, but the respectively extended only six.

Flag officer in command Vice Adm. Ferdinand Golez, yesterday said the Navy, Gadian's motion has not to lose from the justice office.

Although Gadian did not come to submit himself to military control, this would still be ruled in the appellate court during the hearing of his petition, Teodoro said.

"My reason statement has been no comment. It is better here. If she made the allegation, she has the obligation to substantiate it. You cannot have your cake and eat it too," he said.

Meanwhile, Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said yesterday that the government does not consider the grant of the writ of amparo for Gadian as a setback, but saw it as an opportunity for the military to present its side. With reports from TJ Burgonio and Alliance H. Lopez

Chingkoe's plea to extend hospital stay in China nixed

By Nikko Dizon

HAVING FAILED TO TRANSLATE HIS CHINese medical records into English for the justices to understand, the Sandiganbayan has denied businessman Dante Chingkoe's request to extend his stay at a hospital in China.

The Sandiganbayan also directed Chingkoe to appear before the court within five days after receiving its orders.

Earlier, he had been ordered arrested on plunder charges by the anti-graft court after his motion was categorically manifested a multi-million tax credit case against the government in the 1990s.

In its three-page resolution promulgated on Thursday, the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division said the motion to reinstate filed by Chingkoe's lawyer "was not properly substantiated."

"In Inglorious, the First Diagnosis Report attached to the motion allegedly issued by Peking University Shoudilan Hospital is not the original copy. Moreover, it is written in Chinese characters without an accompanying English translation for the proper understanding and appreciation by the prosecution and this Court," the court said in the resolution signed by Associate Justices Jose Hernandez, Gregory Ong and Alex Quiroz.

The court noted that Chingkoe's lawyer "expressly made an understanding" to have the Chinese medical record translated into English but failed to submit this to the court.

Solgen wants audit of oil firms' books stopped

By Tina G. Santos

THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR General yesterday asked a Manila court to stop its order directing the Commission on Audit and the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Customs to examine the books of accounts of the Big 3 oil companies.

In a motion for reconsideration, Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera asked Manila regional trial court Judge Silvino Pampilo to reconsider and set aside its earlier order, claiming it was "unwarranted" and beyond the three government agencies' jurisdiction and mandate.

Pampilo earlier ordered the COA, the BoC and the BIR to form a panel that would examine the cash receipts, cash disbursement books, purchases orders on petroleum products, delivery receipts, sales invoices and other related documents on the purchases of petroleum products of Chevron, Petron and Pilipinas Shell, from January 2003 to December 2005.

The judge directed the oil companies to open their accounting books "to investigation following a complaint by Social Justice Society, a lawyer's group.

Disadvantageous

The SJS accused the Big 3 of using pricing schemes grossly disadvantageous to the public.

Devanadera said the ordered examination is not sanctioned by Section 27 of the Rules of Court or by Republic Act 8479.

She argued that Section 27 covers merely the production and inspection of books or documents being requested by the other party.

"Section 27 does not include the ordered examination by COA, BIR and BoC... Inspection and audit examinations are two different matters," she explained.

The Solicitor General added that Republic 8479 (Oil Deregulation Law) does not authorize the courts to directly act upon any issue relating to the violation by respondents of certain provisions of the law and penalties against monopolies and combinations in restraint of trade...nor does this law mention the ordered examinations.

"RA 8479 grants jurisdiction to the RTC in cases of criminal violations of Section 15 of RA 8479 or the Anti-Dual Safeguard, but only after a finding of the Department of Justice and Energy Task Force of such violation and only after the Task Force has directed the prosecution by the Department of Justice," she said.

DEVANADERA

No jurisdiction

Devanadera said the judge's order was beyond the three government agencies' respective jurisdiction and mandate, and the conduct of examination also was.

"The COA, BIR and BoC can only examine the books of accounts of respondents if it is for the purpose of the determination of the liabilities, franchise taxes, customs and tariff duties as well as for the fixing of rates of public utilities," she explained.

She said the COA's mandate is limited to the auditing of the government or any agency, including government-owned or controlled corporations. She added that the oil companies are not government-owned or controlled instrumentals.

Devanadera also said that BIR could not perform the task because the Tax Code only empowers the agency to examine books of accounts to help it assess and collect the correct amount of taxes.

On the other hand, the BoC can examine the oil companies' books of accounts only for the purpose of determining proper payment of duties and taxes by an importer.

"If the purpose of the order is merely to determine the amount for the frequent increase in petroleum products at subsequently to determine any violation of the Revised Penal Code or RA 8479, it can be done without the order," she added.

'Big Three' earn ₱164M daily, says Bayan

By Aris R. Ilaga

PETRON, SHELL AND Chevron, leading players in the oil industry and also referred to as the Big 3, are earning almost ₱164 million daily from selling petroleum products that are overpriced, according to the multisectoral group Bayan (Bagong Alyansang Makabayan).

Based on its latest estimates, Bayan said oil price-driven products on the average were overpriced by around ₱6.11 a liter.

The group made the allegation as its members held a protest rally yesterday in front of the Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. main office in Makati City to condemn alleged abuses of oil companies and to press for the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law.

"Petron is reaping ₱76.64 million every day from overpriced oil. Shell, on the other hand, is earning ₱59.22 million daily and Chevron, ₱27.31 million," Bayan said in a statement.

The group's estimates looked at the monthly movement of Dubai crude and the ₱5 dollar-peso exchange rate and their combined impact on pump prices. The results were then compared with actual price changes monitored by the Department of Energy.

"Such abuses have become possible because the Big 3 continues to monopolize the oil industry in the Philippines, controlling around 93 percent of domestic petroleum products," Bayan said.

Oil cartel

According to the group, the Oil Deregulation Law did not dismantle the oil cartel but even made it stronger as the private regulatory functions of government such as control on price adjustments were taken away.

Although the National Economic and Development Authority said it supported calls to review and amend the Oil Deregulation Law, Bayan noted that this was not enough to curb the abuses.

"Additional powers given to the DOE, for instance, will not stop the abuses of the oil companies as long as the policy framework is to let so-called market forces set the pump prices of petroleum products," it added. "An entirely new policy regime is required to ensure that Filipino consumers do not pay for overpriced oil."

For an effective regulation of the downstream oil industry, Bayan offered the following suggestions: exclusive government procurement of imported crude oil and petroleum products; the establishment of an oil price and supply buffer; increased state participation in the storing, refining and retailing of oil; and the selling of prices through public hearings and consultations, among others.

Villar, wife still richest–and getting richer–in Congress

By Michael Lim Ubac

EMBATTLED SEN. MANNY Villar Jr. is still the richest member of the upper chamber.

He and his wife, Cynthia, the representative of Las Piñas, have a joint total net worth of P1.0nb billion and no liabilities, Senate records showed.

In the last seven years, the Villars have become P931 million richer, based on the Dec. 2008 Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) they submitted to the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively.

In contrast, dethroned Sen. Alfredo Trillanes IV is the poorest among the 23 member friends, with a net worth of P2.9 million.

Sen. Ana Consuelo Madrigal, wife of the wealthy Madrigal clan, was a "poor" second to Villar with P163.6 million, followed by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile with P120.4 million.

The rest were as follows:

Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. (P118 million); Sen. Pilar Juliana Cayetano (P110.7 million); Sen. Jinggoy Estrada (P 83.3 million); Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel (P72.5 million); Sen. Panfilo Lacson (P55.8 million); Sen. Francis Pangilinan (P53.7 million); Sen. Edgardo Angara (P44.7 million);

Sen. Miguel Zubiri (P28.7 million); Sen. Rodolfo Biazon (P29.4 million); Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr. (P27.6 million); Sen. Richard Gordon (P27 million); Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile (P20.3 million); Sen. Gringo Honasan (P15.8 million); Sen. Lito Lapid (P14.6 million); Sen. Benigno Aquino (P14 million); Senate President (P12.2 million); Francis Escudero (P7.8 million); Sen. Mar Roxas (P7.6 million); Sen. Jamby Madrigal (P7.5 million); Sen. Manuel Villar (P2.9 million).

Richer every year

When he was Senate President in 2006, Villar had P335.85 million in networth, second only to then Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

In 2008, the resigned Speaker's wealth of the Villar couple ballooned to P862 million and to P931.2 million in 2009.

In 2007, their combined networth reached P700 million, with no liabilities or debts. The next year, Ever cut networth every up to P916 million.

In Dec. 2007, the former billionaire's networth of P1,441 billion.

In shunning trial, Villar is doing a Ninoy

From page A1

the Senate Finance Committee Report for the 2009 Budget for all senators to scrutinize and vote. The presidential letter in fact of them signed the report. It was forwarded to the Senate in plenary.

In the plenary, the insertion was not disturbed. In the Bicameral Conference, the same was likewise approved. The Makati Rapolt was sent back to the Senate for ratification and we approved it.

Now, the presidentiables are complaining that it is illegal. You join the fun(s)." The P200-billion insertion went through four stages. What is the value of a senator's vote or opposition if he can with complete abandon, just run around and go against the very one [sic] he campaigned for as a potential opponent?

That is what is happening now.

In future, a Senate majority can expel a colleague, right or wrong, if they have the numbers.

II

Before the Villar prosecution, the ethics committee had its rules. After the Villar case was filed, the new ethics committee amended the original rules. the intent is control. Nobody can be more than the accusation to realize under the several rules.

When Villar complained, the presidentiables proposed that the Senate constitute itself as the Committee of the Whole. They refused to debate the issue, are to be compelled. Imagine the Senate, a deliberative body, functioning debate-a-nonparliamentary. It was an easy feeling, the neurological science for Villar.

III

As the Villar case was elevated to the Senate Committee of the Whole. The minority wanted to amend the several rules in order to [illegible] the rules. It took three six sessions to realize under the several rules.

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III

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IV

This is a complaint of Sen. Jinggy Madrigal against Senator Villar. The Committee on ethics defendant is entitled "to more the ordinary basis to [sic]." What happened as shown in the last hearing was that the witness that took the stand was not Senator Madrigal but her personal lawyer, atty. Ernesto Francisco.

This is evidence through proper – that cannot be, in view by, A lawyer testifying for himself by the complainant.

And worst, the new on third set of rules forbid the cross-examination of the proxy witness(es) who admit that the minority be allowed to cross-examine. The third takes step as of this stage, say the presidentiables. Only at the third stage, Gilbert Villar has been detained with no-party propaganda, evidence or else but second stage), can Villar present his evidence.

V

The Senate President is trying to administer the damage of the third rules to Senator Villar, but he is overwhelmed by the campaigning presidentiables.

In the past, faced with just two prosecutors from outside and public military judges, Nixon refused to attend or participate in his trial before fellow Congressmen No. 2 and was summoned to death by members, Gene Lopez Jr. and Jorge Ocampo. El, Feeling the committee, also refused to attend their trials and just escaped from their misdeeds.

There is dignity in not attending a trial with built-in rules stacked against you.

'Hello Garci' whistle-blower is dead

From page A1

and conspirators unite whom we should condemn a hero because he fought for the truth and for justice for the Filipino people who were deprived of their chosen president."

Enrique was returning to his office in Intal, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., who was Mr. Arroyo's erstwhile president in 2004.

Before going to to see Ong, Estrada told reporters: "You see, he is a hero of truth. I admire him for seeking public the Garci tapes."

"He sacrificed his life, his ambitions, his family for it to your public account," Estrada said. "I met his time, all his charming and the church that did to my friend Ong and to the Filipino people would not be forgotten."

Palace condolences

Asked for a statement on Ong's death, Press Secretary Gorge Remanda said: "We extend condolences to his family. May God grant him eternal rest."

Remanda declined comment when asked if Ong's death put any closure to the "Hello Garci" scandal, saying this was not the occasion to talk about it.

Garci said he and his companions were surprised that Ong passed away soon after their visit, adding Ong's vital signs were stable during the time they were there.

Estrada's visit lasted about 30 minutes.

Yearling battle

Since last year, Ong had been battling cancer in an advanced stage, his son Bernard Ong Jr. said.

Ong made headlines in June 2005 when he went public and, holding up a CD, said the tape in his possession of the original audio tapes containing the incriminating transcripts of alleged phone conversations between Mr. Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about how to rig the results of the 2004 presidential election.

Ong said he came out because his life was in danger and he thought Filipinos should know that his presence in the election. He urged her to resign.

"This tape is the mother of all tapes," he said.

4th anniversary

Seventeen days after Ong's impassioned appeal, his lawyer went to the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame and apologized for her "lapse in judgment" by talking with an unnamed police official after the election. Then she added her famous words: "I am sorry."

The scandal triggered resignations of high officials from the Arroyo Cabinet, amid a soaring low chemical.

Ong's death came just three weeks before the fourth anniversary of his exposé against Mr. Arroyo, who denied any wrongdoing. To this day, the so-called "Hello Garci" scandal remains unforgotten.

Garci said: "It's really sad that he would die at this time."

Last rites

Ong was given the last sacrament by Bishop Teodoro Bacani on Wednesday, said Gutiol, who was with Ong in 2005 when the latter made his "mother of all tapes" revelations.

Ong's family was also told on Wednesday that he could go "any day now," according to Garci.

It was also Bacani who helped provide shelter for Ong and his companions for a few days at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City after the 2005 exposé.

Henry Ong said it was difficult for the family to accept that his brother, whom he described as a "principled man," would arrive on the doorsteps of the Lord so soon.

"It is very painful for us, very painful," a tearful-eyed Henry said.

He blamed no one

Henry said his brother was diagnosed with lung cancer just after his birthday on Oct. 8 last year.

He said his brother was not concerned at the diagnosis.

"He said, 'I don't blame anyone. I abused myself,'" Henry quoted his brother as saying.

Ong's poll exposé had been a source of family pride, friends and finally members said.

"They never saddened [at his death], but I know that they were proud of what he did," Bacani said.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

DANIEL ONG, A FORMER Military/Bureau of Investigation deputy director, crashed an appearance on June 18, 2008, when he announced that he possessed the original set of four audiotapes allegedly with the alleged rigging of the 2004 presidential election.

The tapes were supposed to be recordings of phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and to her Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano discussing how to manipulate the election results.

Four days before Ong came out in public, Malacañang had released what it claimed was a doctored version of what became known as the "Hello Garci" tapes.

Ong said he obtained the tapes from his friend, Tiglao, Virgilio Garcillano, who was working with shifty intelligence.

Ong then brought custody from his Garcillano's testimony in Makati City, along with Bobbie and Gutierrez's ex-friend, Marietta Santos.

Wife's story

On June 23, Bobbie's estranged wife, Arlene, herself arranged incredible and another husband was being held [illegible] of the ceremony. She said she has not about the alleged illegal detention from her husband's text messages.

The same day, Bobbie Director Executive Villegas took Bobbie out of the compound and turned him over to the military.

In a television interview, Bobbie denied that the supposed authentic tapes in Ong's possession came from him.

In an affidavit, Bobbie said Ong had served him a number of at a Quezon City hotel and told him to appear in order for a "scripted authentication" of the tapes. Bobbie said he signed only because Ong threatened him and his family.

Bobbie alleged that Ong paid him P1 million for the tapes, claiming the money came from Lauro Vizconde, widower of murdered Penthouse Jennifer Lynn Vizconde.

Death threats

Ong and his lawyers refused to file several Bobbie's allegations. Ong also said Bobbie retracted his word with him to seek refuge at the Vatican embassy.

The justice department stopped Ong with illegal detention charges, which were later dismissed.

Ong failed to show up in a Senate inquiry on Sept. 17, 2007, on the "Hello Garci" scandal, because saying his character was being "assassinated in the media" after getting death threats.

At the Senate inquiry, Bobbie recanted his earlier statements and said Gordon "put the words and not recorded the "Hello Garci" conversations. He also said he used willingly with Ong to the Makati sentence.

Bobbie said the statements that he had earlier but sworn to were "coerced and intimidated" by Gordon and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

Bobbie alleged that Ong paid him P1 million for the tapes, claiming the money came from Lauro Vizconde, widower of murdered Penthouse Jennifer Lynn Vizconde.

Death threats

Ong and his lawyers refused to file several Bobbie's allegations. Ong also said Bobbie retracted his word with him to seek refuge at the Vatican embassy.

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Robobama: For Disney, not the wax museum

From page A1

standing on a floor inside a warehouse here. Admiring an inspirational speech about the blessings of freedom, when his left hand began to mimic uncontrollably, unnerving his aides.

The 44th US president was in obvious distress. At least it looked like him. But with dilation this and a tangled nest of wires behind his head, the "Robobama" as it is known among some handlers, was a 21st-century reproduction.

More specifically, it was an audio-animatronic representation of the president, as imagined by Walt Disney Co., and unveiled with the direct involvement of the White House staff—and of Obama himself.

President is high-def

The president unveiled not just his mannerisms, he also recorded that speech (which was initially drafted by a Disney writer)—until yet another revolution of the oath of office, this one in Disney high-definition sound.

In the Hollywood building here, the life-size, three-dimensional figure was being put through its final tune-up. At this writing and inside globalizing in response to technicians in preparation for shipment to the Hall of Presidents exhibit at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Disney officials declined to say how much it cost to build an Obama. He is not the first president to wind his voice, or image, to Disney World: George W. Bush and Bill Clinton were also given speaking roles in the exhibit during their terms, and assisted Disney's "imagineers" in the creation of their likenesses. But the Obama figure is assuredly the most lifelike of them all.

Mr. Bushmore comes alive

The public is to get its first glimpse of Robobama on July 4. The unveiling will be to a Disney World theater, alongside animatronic figures of every other president. As in the past, the progress will end with each president standing to one side to greet the audience during a roll call, as if Mount Rushmore had suddenly come alive.

The exhibit will open with the new film, narrated by actor Morgan Freeman in a certain point, the Abraham Lincoln figure will rise and speak to the audience, as it always has, but now it will deliver the Gettysburg Address in full.

But the emotional high point is intended to be the last selection of the Obama figure, who will get up to the podium, taking the oath.

New York Times News Service

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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As the registered owner of the mark "KOLIN", KOLIN ELECTRONICS COMPANY, INC. is entitled to the exclusive right to use the said mark, and to prevent any party without its written consent from using in the course of trade identical or similar signs or containers for goods and services which is identical or similar to those in respect of which the trademark is registered. [Section 147.1 of the Intellectual Property Code, Republic Act No. 8293]. KOLIN ELECTRONICS COMPANY, INC. will not hesitate to pursue legal actions against any party who infringes its intellectual property rights to the marks "KOLIN".

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Tel. 7435986; 7436028

Malversation raps filed vs 2 BIR execs

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN HAS filed charges of malversation of public funds against two revenue collection officers of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Bulacan and Iloilo for allegedly failing to remit some P520,000 and P160,000 in collections, respectively.

In a complaint filed with the Bulacan Regional Trial Court, the Ombudsman accused revenue collection officer Gerardo Aabal of not remitting to the government some P520,000 in revenue collection in 2005.

The agency also filed charges against revenue collection officer Hedylen Bulseco with the Iloilo Regional Trial Court for allegedly failing to account for some P160,000 in cash and documentary stamp accountability in 2006.

"In the crime of malversation, all that is necessary for conviction is proof that the accountable officer had received the public funds and that he did not have them in his possession when demand thereof was made," the Ombudsman said.

Both complaints were originally filed with the Ombudsman by the BIR regional directors in BIR Regions 11 (Davao provinces) and 16 (northern Mindanao).

In separate resolutions recommending the filing of charges against the two, copies of which were given to the lawyers, the Ombudsman said both Aabal and Bulseco failed to submit their responses to the allegations during preliminary investigation.

In another case, the Office of the Ombudsman also filed malversation charges against Cebu City revenue officer Cosme Mandenkatan Jr. for allegedly using P19,500 of his collections for his personal expenses in 2003.

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111th Philippine Navy Anniversary

22 May 2009 • Headquarters Philippine Navy, Fort San Antonio Abad, Roxas Boulevard, Manila

Messages

It is with distinct pride that I congratulate the officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees of the Philippine Navy as you celebrate your 111th Founding Anniversary.

For more than a century, the Philippine Navy has remained on watch in a number of operations and activities, both at home and at sea. All these required great vigilance and professionalism which you, as the Philippine Navy have shown with utmost zeal and dedication.

Even with your modest resources and manpower, you continue to operate in the air, at sea and on the ground in order to guard our territorial waters and maritime resources, and contribute to the preservation of peace and security in the country.

Amidst the global financial crisis affecting our country, I challenge all of you to uphold your commitment to your theme "Team Navy: A Vital Partner for Lasting Peace, Progress and Development of a Maritime Nation." I encourage you to continue your support to the socioeconomic initiatives of our government, internal efforts in internal security operations, and enhance civil-military partnership.

I wish you fair seas, fair winds, and following seas. Happy Anniversary.

Mabuhay ang Hukbong Dagat ng Pilipinas!

It gives me great pride and pleasure to convey my warmest greetings to the officers, men and women of the Philippine Navy on the occasion of your 111th Anniversary.

Your theme, "Philippine Navy: A Vital Partner for Lasting Peace, Progress and Development of a Maritime Nation", reaffirms the commitment of the Philippine Navy and of the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines to be a strong partner in the pursuit of national development objectives.

The Philippine Navy, as the country's guardian of our territorial waters, is constantly keen with formidable challenges addressing threats to the security of our maritime domain as well as transnational crimes throughout the country. Even with limited resources, the Philippine Navy has remained focused to maximize its capabilities, efforts of government and civil society to build challenged professionally. Thereby, contributing significantly to the attainment of lasting peace, socio-economic development and economic stability for our country and people.

For this, We have observed the recognition and gratitude of the entire Filipino nation. On this note, I congratulate the Philippine Navy for a job well done and urge you to continue with the zeal to achieve and even exceed your previous performance, commitment to service and mission in safeguarding the country's territorial and national territory.

Happy Anniversary and God bless us all!

I express my warmest congratulations and felicitations on the officers, enlisted, marines and civilian personnel of the Philippine Navy on the occasion of your 111th Founding Anniversary.

The Philippine Navy is rich in its century-glorious heritage as a seafaring people. From the legendary Lapulapu to the modern day warriors during the pro-Filipino period to a small fleet of second-hand ships that served the Revolutionary Government of the country, the Republic and to this day of modernization up to the present era of global dominance of Filipino maritime professionals. Filipino have been recognized among the highest standards of excellence in seamanship and professionalism.

Without doubt, the Philippine Navy exhibited the evolution of growth and maturity as a professional organization and an important member of Team AFP. True to their heritage, our Navy professionals have been at the forefront of our nation's national security operations for the past 111 years. Indeed, in defending our country's national patrimony, by making an ever increasing and illustrious history, the Philippine Navy has always been established its relevance as a critical pillar of our nation's security.

Individually and collectively, our Navy professionals represent growth to the Armed Forces. Showing that we are not only an institution that secures, but also a community that promotes the finest attributes of loyalty, dedication, professionalism and valor towards our shared goal of progress and peace. Indeed, your anniversary theme, "Team Navy: A Vital Partner for Lasting Peace, Progress and Development of a Maritime Nation" captures the essence of the Navy's tradition of being at the cutting edge of maritime change and progress.

Mabuhay ang Hukbong Dagat ng Pilipinas! Maligaya at Masaganang Labas ng Pilipinas!

It is with high rank that I would like to congratulate the officers, sailors, marines and civilian employees of the Philippine Navy for your individual as well as collective contribution to the continuous improvement of our organization.

The year 2009 was a critical period for our organization to transform while we perform. We have started laying down the foundations for our future and have made a dynamic approach to adapt to shifting realities in our external environment. And in these efforts, I am particularly overwhelmed by the support and cooperation you have extended.

With the challenges we have now and in place, we are efficiently but energetic towards our core competency. We shall reflect on our theme, "Team Navy: A Vital Partner for Lasting Peace, Progress and Development of a Maritime Nation" as we work together in the months ahead.

We must continue to perform our primary tasks of protecting our seas while supporting the government's national development programs. Aside from these, we must be able to contribute to the rapid improvement of our socio-economic conditions.

I call on every one of us to give our best in supporting that we can and must do leading to nation, FIN ANNOUNCE. Our progress highly depends on our most important asset – our personnel. Let us join hands in making Team Navy strong and credible that our maritime nation can be proud of.

Navy's Glorious Past

The Philippine Navy Today

FOIC's Call for Action

Navy Day Awardees

NPA rebels kidnap 2 cops, 1 soldier

COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS KIDNAPPED two policemen and a soldier at a rebel checkpoint in Mindanao on Friday and then wounded an army commander who led rescue efforts, the military said.

The kidnappings by the New People's Army rebels were the latest flare-up in the world's 40-year-old communist rebellion. The guerrillas are believed to be part of a group that clashed Thursday with troops, officials said.

The insurgents put up the checkpoint in Compostela Valley province's Maragusan township, where they kidnapped a staff sergeant and two policemen, said Lt. Col. Rio Dreuyta, a regional Army spokesperson.

Lt. Col. Rolando Ansoc, a battalion commander in the area, was on his way to rescue the three when he and his men encountered rebels blocking their way, Dreuyta said. The ensuing 20-minute firefight left Ansoc with a shoulder wound. He was airlifted to a hospital, where he was in stable condition.

Officials said the rebels apparently shifted their attacks to Monkayo after troops attacked about 64 guerrillas who gathered Thursday in adjacent Agusan del Sur province after attending a rebel commander's clandestine wedding. Up to 10 rebels were killed and several others wounded.

The military has said the Maoist guerrilla army numbers only about 5,000—from a peak strength of about 25,000 in the mid-1980s—due to battle losses, surrenders and infighting. AP

Sex video bandit faces string of cases

By Michael Lim Ubac

HAYDEN KHO: THE CELEBRITY COSMETIC doctor and alleged sex video bandit, could be facing other charges than the ones brought against him by actress Katrina Halili.

According to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Kho could be prosecuted under Republic Act No. 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act (VAWC), for committing "psychological violence" against Halili when he filmed their sexual tryst without Halili's knowledge and consent.

Santiago said the person responsible for distributing the video was equally liable "because he's pandering to the taste itself. He becomes culpable, not only an accessory."

The video-cassette selling DVD copies of the sex scandals also have criminal liability, said Santiago, a former trial court judge and constitutional law expert.

"But it is generally considered as accessory, meaning they have marginal participation in the crime itself. And it comes the decision of the public, or basically the accused—if the penalty for the principal is reclusion perpetua, the accessory is prision correccional, which is six months to six years," she said.

Under the VAWC, "psychological violence" refers to acts or omissions causing or likely to cause the mental or emotional suffering of the victim, such as but not limited to intimidation, harassment, stalking, damage to property, public ridicule or humiliation, repeated verbal abuse and mental infidelity.

According to Santiago, a person who has or had a sexual or dating relationship with a woman is guilty of committing psychological violence against her through acts involving her mental or emotional anguish, public ridicule or humiliation.

If found guilty of committing psychological violence against Halili, Kho faces from six to 12 years imprisonment, and a fine of not less than P100,000 but not more than P300,000.

He must also undergo mandatory psychological counseling or psychiatric treatment under the watchful eye of the trial court.

Voyeurism

Even before the scandal erupted, Santiago already filed a bill to criminalize photo and video voyeurism.

The committee on justice and human rights has already conducted public hearings on Senate Bill No. 1182, or the "Anti-Video Voyeurism Act," and submitted a committee report to the plenary last year. It is still waiting to be calendared in the plenary.

Photo and video voyeurism is the act of capturing an image of the private area of an individual without their consent, and knowingly doing it under circumstances in which the individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

"Under my bill, it is not even necessary that the photos or video shows the aggrieved person engaging in sexual intercourse," Santiago explained.

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Villar, allies ask SC to stop Senate probe

By Jeannette I. Andrade

VILLAR

"The petitioners asked the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order stopping the forthcoming trial and to make the injunction permanent after hearing the issues related to the case.

Arbitrary rules

"The Senate Committee of the Whole's ongoing investigations and hearing of the complained against Senator [Manuel] Villar Jr. is under an arbitrary rules constituents grave abuse of discretion that could lead to an incomprehensible, oppressive and illegal discussions [of] the said complaint," the petition said.

"Accordingly, in order to prevent a clear violation of the Constitution, a writ of preliminary injunction and/or temporary restraining order is necessary to enjoin the Senate Committee of the Whole from proceeding with the investigation," it added.

Act of discrimination

The petition said the upper chamber's decision to transfer the complaint against Villar from the Blue Committee to the Committee of the Whole violated Villar's right to equal protection.

"[The] constitution of the Senate Committee of the Whole for the sole purpose of resuming jurisdiction over the complaint against Senator Villar is an act of discrimination," the petition said.

"What makes Senator Villar so special as to justify the handing of the complaint against him by the Senate Committee of the Whole as compared to other senators, such as Senator [Richard] Gordon, Senator [Aquilino] Pimentel and an unnamed member of the Senate who are also facing serious charges against them but are still under the jurisdiction of the Blue Committee?" it added.

Absurd and despotic

The petitioners said depriving such the original ethics panel "is absurd, discriminative, [and] despotic."

The suit "further amplified by the refusal of the Senate President to allow any discussion on the organization of the Senate Committee of the Whole and its composition of the investigating panel against Senator Villar," they said.

The petition said the rules of the Committee of the Whole were "violative of Senator Villar's right to due process."

One of the questioned rules is the provision on quorum that the petitioners say requires the presence of only two members.

"That is not only absurd and despotic but likewise unconstitutional. To apply this two-member quorum rule ... would run counter to [the Constitution]," the petitioners said.

12 plus 1

The petitioners said that as a committee of the whole, "it found itself to function as a body that ironically is mandated to be composed of 24 senators."

"So such, it has to comply with the rule on quorum [of] those in said section ... [which] is 12 plus one, or 13 senators," the petition said.

The petitioners also said the Committee of the Whole violated the due process clause of the Constitution "when it refused to publish the rules of the Senate Committee of the Whole in spite of its own provision" requiring publication.

Villar has been innocent

The Senate, acting as a Committee of the Whole, has ruled there is a "prima facie case" of ethical violations against Villar over a purported double funding and diversion of the C.O. road maintenance project (among over 100 road repair projects) in Las Piñas.

Villar has maintained his innocence, pointing out that there was no road diversion and double funding because these were two projects involved—the first was the flyover in Sucat and the second was Coastal Road flyovers.

He said that total funding for the C.O. project was P6,993 million, but only P209 million was made available in 2000.

The real issue

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said the issue before the Supreme Court was not whether the Senate had acted in voting to put Villar on trial, but whether it committed an abuse of discretion.

Santiago told reporters Villar could not be punished for the so-called double allocation in the 2004 budget for the same stretch of road from Pamplona to Las Piñas.

"The basis of this crime is the intent to commit a crime. If this matter has been substantiated, as Senator Villar alleges, and they actually refer to two separate projects ... efforts should have been undertaken to prevent confusion about the identity of the two separate projects," Santiago said.

"But if there was an intent to mislead the public then there is no crime involved and you cannot hold the senators responsible simply because we approve the budget as a collegial body."

Hayden breaks silence, says sorry for sex video

Front page A1

to revoke Kho's medical license.

Kho said he had decided to "suspend" his medical practice.

"This incident has had a stressful and emotional effect on my being" as well as the victim, Halili.

"The root cause of this elements deeper personal matters, therefore I have been under going psychosocial counseling since December," Kho said.

In a radio interview, Lorna Kapunan, Kho's lawyer, said her client was "undergoing therapy and psychosocial counseling."

Kapunan said Kho has already admitted to shooting the video and that it was wrong to do so.

May file charges vs friend

"He is repentant and very sorry to Ms Halili," the lawyer said.

Kapunan said Kho was "voluntarily submitting" his medical license so there was no need to search it.

She said Kho was also considering filing charges against his friend, businessman Jesse Chua, who is suspected of making the video public.

'The fight continues'

Halili was unmoved by Kho's apology and explanations.

"I want him punished. I want him jailed," she said in an interview.

"I will not give up. The fight continues," Halili said.

Halili said she was "settling with work for the entertainment business I want to focus on the cases I filed against Hayden. I want him to pay for what he did to me and other women."

She encouraged other victims to come forward. "We shouldn't allow him to get away with what he did."

Robert manager Cielo Selin, a friend of Kho's who visited Halili Sunday, another begin profile counselor's doctor, agreed with Halili.

No malice!

"I don't buy that he had no malice in making those recordings. He bragged about the videos to his namesake bomb, specifically, and even said he had the videos in the public," Selin said.

She said that she is furious with Kho for harassing Halili who was in a relationship with him during the period when most of the video recordings were made.

Online reports have compared Kho with Hong Kong actor Edison Chen whose nude photos and intimate videos were posted online. Chen had to flee Hong Kong, pursued by lawmakers and death threats.

Halili said Kho should also suffer, but doesn't want him to leave the country.

"He should face it in court," she said.

It seemed to Halili that "Kho has yet to own up to his crime."

Psychological violence

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"Under my bill, it is not even necessary that the photos or video shows the aggrieved person engaging in sexual intercourse," Santiago explained.

GMA appalled

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO was so appalled by the sex video scandal involving Kho that she ordered the Optical Media Board and other agencies to "step up" the campaign against pornography in video forms, said Press Secretary Ceege Ermita.

"President Arroyo is both a woman and a mother. She's very concerned and every compassionate woman or mother cannot help but become victims in this issue," said Ermita. She could not say if Mrs Arroyo viewed the video.

Ermita said the staff had seen the video and was nauseated by it.

Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III said he expected to be asked by the media about it, so he viewed the video before "other[wise] reasons."

The former justice secretary said the video was a "desecration of womanhood" and said that Kho should be charged with the crime of prostitution.

TJ Burgonio

Souvenirs for romances

Kho even claimed that "his videos are souvenirs from his past romances. Like a journal or diary."

At least three sources have claimed that Kho has also recorded an encounter with Bello.

"That was the reason why Vicki was crying a few days ago," said a source.

Actor Raymart Santiago has also been spared from the sex video, Bello agreed to do the video with him. But it's never compared to the others," according to the source.

Extortion angle

A Bello insider said there was an extortion angle in the case.

"Someone demanded P4 million from Bello in exchange for her video with Kho," the source said.

Another source said that the Bello video was in the hard disk that was allegedly copied by Chua, without Bello's consent.

Bello said Chua is in the business of selling DVD duplicating equipment. Chua owns D&D music and video, the source said.

According to Bello, Kho had a falling-out with Chua and his other friends before.

Back together

"In retaliation, they told Vicki about the sex videos last December, after which Boots and Rico broke up," Bello recalled.

When it became apparent that Bello and Rico reconciled recently, Bello said, "Chua and his friends got scared and retrieved the videos."

Edu Manzano, head of the Optical Media Board, was neither spurred in saying that Chua had sold the Halili-Kho video to 10 cases for 10 million.

Asked Manzano, Bello's lawyer, told the Inquirer that he has been told by certain sources that the Bello video has been made public.

"We haven't seen the video yet but we are conducting the existence of the [Bello] video," he said. The lawyer also said that its clear had told him that Kho had "recorded an inadvertent encounter" with her.

Asked if Bello would file a case against the people who released the video to the public, Tinsman said: "She is weighing her options. But Dr. Kho isn't a malicious person. She just wants a clean change and is not of the criminal law."

Publicly, Bello insists that the real Kho is not her friend.

But Bello is positive that Bello and Kho are back together. "Khoo birthday was on May 20. I'm sure Vicki's gift to him is his lawyer. He couldn't afford to hire someone like Lorna Kapunan."

Meanwhile, Kho, who is facing multiple incongruities, has been making himself scarce.

PBC summons

A summons from the Philippine Regulation Commission is could not be served because Kho was not at his Makati condominium unit earlier.

The PRC has ordered Kho to answer a complaint of immorality and dishonorable and unethical conduct filed by Halili.

PRC lawyer Phatson Mamaki said they were to talk to the sex star Boots Anson-Roa of Miss Makati sounds more late time but that they would be serving the summons to his office address in Quezon City.

Espousal Pabel, Halili's lawyer, said Chua's acts were immoral and a violation of the Medical Act of 1959 as well as the Code of Ethics.

Kho did not make an appearance, either, at the National Bureau of Investigation where anti-fraud and computer crimes division is investigating the Kho-Halili video that has been widely circulated in the Internet.

Virginia de Guzman, the NTCCD head, said the summonses were issued to the personalities mentioned by Halili in her sworn statement submitted to the bureau, including Bello and Chua.

'No comment'

Lawyer Jose Paulo Pablo said Rico was willing to cooperate with the investigation but did not explain his client's absence. He answered questions with "no comment" and asked the media to refer to Rico's statement.

Bello and Chua similarly failed to make an appearance. Bello's lawyer said she had client to see and could not attend. Chua's excuse was that he had just engaged the services of a lawyer who was still studying the records of the case.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Thurdi Santos and Jeannette I. Andrade

GK, 'Couples:' Divorced, but still friends

Front page A1

ents—even as they made the announcement that the GFC, the country's largest lay Catholic organization, was "letting go" of GK.

"We recognize and respect the authority of our bishops in their respective dioceses," said Joe Tale, executive director of the CFC International Council (CFC-IC), but he clarified that CFC's cutting its ties with GK would not destroy "the abundance and of GK since."

'Interdependence'

Following the announcement in early May that the CFC-IC and GK had decided to have separate meetings, Gene said a directive by Pangasinan archbishop not to have anything more to do with the GK or he said the split would mean that the GK would be functioning as a nonreligious organization.

GK executive director Antonio Mickey immediately clarified that there was an meeting of two with the CFC-IC, explaining that there continued to be an "interdependence of movements" even as there was an "independence of governance."

By this he means that the Church hierarchy and its members should continue to participate in GK programs.

This was further clarified by the CFC-IC executive at the five years conference is has held on the issue during which officials of the lay organization admitted that they had initiated the break.

Tale said CFC-IC members decided "to let go [of their positions in the GK] and years on the membership is a new set of board members."

He said the CFC-IC hoped to meet with GK to "explain that our desire is to continue to cover and care for them [the GK stays in Pangasinan]."

'Elusive unity'

"There is no split in the real sense. GK members can continue to volunteer in GK sites," he said.

Earlier reports said the CFC-IC and the SK had various disagreements, particularly on the issue of the GK sweeping donations from groups promoting population control that the Catholic Church opposes.

While it did not categorically confirm this, the CFC-IC said in a statement that while it has tried to resolve its "differences" with the GK, "until conditions allow for elusive unity the present structure."

"EK is focused on nation-building and on poverty elimination that will accentuate that it is autonomous and partners with all sectors of society," Tale said in the statement.

He said GK was also "poised to move to non-Christian countries (such as India, Indonesia and the Middle East) as a nonreligious organization."

But CFC-IC member Bengard Pante said GK would continue to support GK sites in non-Christian villages."

GK helps poor communities build decent homes for themselves. For the past 12 years, the group was practically under CFC-IC leadership as the seven regional areas of the CFC-IC also served as members of the 12-member CIC board.

In yesterday's statement, the CFC-IC formally announced its decision to "let go of the governance and corporate structure" of GK and turn over the leadership to a new board.

The session a smooth transition, two CFC-IC members, Erin Manjul Jr. and Lito Ebay, will remain in the GK board "in an interim capacity," Tale said.

Cameron heart for the poor

Tale said the split would "allow the GK to grow and flourish."

"There is an organizational change but is to important to note that the two will continue to work together and have a common bond: for the poor," Tale added.

He said that the split would also allow the CFC to continue working on its own pro-poor projects.

In 2007, the CFC also suffered a schism over the organization's direction, also involving the same issue of GK's policies.

Frank Padilla, a founding member of the CFC, broke away from the group to form CFC Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL), after voicing his opposition to the GK.

Padilla reportedly did not approve of the GK policy of accepting donations from companies that restrict artificial family planning and other values that he said were opposed to CFC. He also called for more vigorous evangelization efforts from CFC members.

Melens, also a founding member of the CFC, argued that the CFC should also be involved in social activism, which is the underlying philosophy of the GK that he founded.

Violent dispersal of protesting farmers hit

By GJC
Cabacungan Jr.

FARMERS PROTEST... ing Congress' inaction on the promised agrarian reform program were roughed up by a combined Senate of Representatives security and action force (SAF) and police after House Speaker Prospero Nograles ordered their breakfast meeting with camping out for 46 days at the Batasan complex in Quezon City.

According to Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Nograles and three security officers of Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Pete Dumpit, Jr. (Ret.) were set for Monday. "That's why the camp must be removed per recommendation of Senate security and police authorities. Sorry partner, it's beyond me," said Nograles in a text message relayed to headquarters Rep. Rafael Mariano.

"We denounce the violent dispersal by the police of the protests' camp-out of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) as a repressive move by the leadership of the House of Representatives," Ocampo said.

Ocampo said the dispersal was not called for since the camp-out was peaceful and orderly for the last 46 days of the Quezon agrarian reform bill. [illegible]

"So-called intelligence reports that there will be a big rally on Monday is an excuse for the House and the PNP to resort to the violent dispersal of the camp-out. It's deplorable that despite this, with the expiration of the House session by [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] the promised camp-out of KMP-affiliated peasants, with some members and children hurt in the process. Speaker Nograles can't escape blame as he directed Senate security to intervene despite my personal appeal to him," said Ocampo.

The violent operations started at 11 a.m. when 50 to 60 SAF and police heavily outnumber the Bulacan main gate. The protesters manned the earthen dike with paint and bamboo canes that were met with double and truncheons with a fire truck in back up.

Mariano said the protesters complied with the House Secretary General's order a week ago to stay at least one side of the Batasan gate after the protesters rejected a proposal to hold a moving picket rather than a camp-out.

Tensions heated up shortly after 1 p.m. when the SAF and police moved in and started tearing down their tent. A violent clash erupted but soon [illegible] hour with most of the 40 protesters injured, including the 60-year-old spokesperson of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas Antonio Flores. The site was declared at 3 p.m. with the injured rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center.

Mariano said the aggressive action taken against the protesters was a declaration of war. "Speaker Nograles and House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno Yap, they will have it," said Mariano.

The camp-out was meant to show the farmers' indignation over the failure of Congress to act on the agrarian reform program before adjournment.

A casualty in the eviction was the temporary office of Anakpawis Rep. Joel Maglunsod, one of the 32 newly elected party-list representatives with no office or budget allocation. "They are marginalizing us," said Maglunsod further the marginalized sectors," said Maglunsod who planned to [illegible] to hold the congress until House goes to [illegible] to a long break to the first week of June.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the construction project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	Civil / Architectural Works for the Construction of 1-storey Chemical Warehouse (System F) for 1,000 Tons (±) Capacity
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P13,500,000.00
Delivery Period	The delivery period shall be within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of notice of the approved Purchase Order.

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement/project and completed it from 1/2/2006 (date of contract/notice to proceed) to 5/21/2009 (date of submission and receipt of bids). The Bidding Documents may be sold to the Prospective Contractors (PCs) after confirmation of their eligibility, using the criteria and preliminary examination specified in the Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs). Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All participating contractors must submit a valid Statement of Contractor's Qualifications (SCQ) and other documentary requirements enumerated in Section 23.1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (An Act Reforming the Government Procurement System), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and its IRR.

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 25 May 2009, Procurement Office (Room 1105-A, 11/F BSP Building)
2. Pre-bid Conference	05 June 2009, 2:30 PM (BAC Office)
3. Opening of Bids	12 June 2009, 2:30 PM (BAC Office)
4. Bid Evaluation	Period shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR) No. 9184 of R.A. No. 9184, dated 10 January 2003, as amended.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to corporations or individuals because of any omissions incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, or declare the bidding as failure, and accept the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the invitation.

(Sgd.) MELPHIA GONZAGA
Vice-Chairman

(First Posting: May 23, 2009)

THREE-YEAR-OLD Mariah Nadia "Nadine" a smile at the Smile Booth at The Block at SM North EDSA. INQ photo

Donate a smile to benefit Unicef

FOR EVERY 10 FILIPINO CHILDREN who enroll in school, only four will complete elementary school. Those who drop out will likely never learn to read or write, or find employment apart from labor.

These facts from the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) have prompted mobile phone maker Sony Ericsson to take a stand in the fight for children's rights in education. Together with SM Supermalls and Digicon, they have partnered to spread the smile to Filipino children through Unicef.

The campaign aims to collect a million digital smile photos through Smile Booths located in SM Supermalls, to raise P1 million for the benefit of Unicef. Each smile photo taken in the booth will be equivalent to a P1 donation to Unicef. And for a P20 donation at the booths, the donor gets a souvenir photo courtesy of printing partner Digicon, while another photo goes up on the Smile Wall. The donor also gets a raffle coupon for a chance to win the 3.2-megapixel Sony Ericsson C510 Cyber-shot phone.

"With Spread The Smiles, we in Sony Ericsson recognize our nature as people who smile through adversity, and smile through change," said Dennis Shimomae, Sony Ericsson general manager. "For time we have to smile for our children. We are grateful and honored that SM lends across the country here joined us for this cause, and for Digicon as our printing partner. Through Unicef, we can spread the smiles to our children."

Miss SM Supermalls as participating in the campaign with Smile Booths and Smile Walls in the six different dates throughout the campaign period. Throughout May, Smile Booths in SM North EDSA, SM Megamall and SM Mall of Asia will be taking "smile" photos.

'Take care, but don't panic'

From page A1

the World Health Organization's representative to the Philippines in a briefing at the WHO offices in Manila.

Hyuntae Lee said self-quarantine of 7-10 days for returning travelers would be "a sufficient safeguard measure against the spread of the infection to schools."

DepEd memo

The other day, the Department of Education released a memorandum to intensify awareness drives and monitoring to prevent the spread of the virus in schools.

The memorandum, signed by Lapus orders the creation of Anti-Influenza A(H1N1) Task Forces in the DepEd regional, division and district levels, and the establishment of A(H1N1) hotlines in all regional and division offices.

It also orders school health and nutrition personnel to disseminate information about the virus to pupils and teachers. The memorandum centers with a four-page information sheet on the virus.

It orders teachers to work with their communities and local officials not only in the information drive but also in identifying "residents of the community who have come from our Influenza A(H1N1)-affected country/area."

Stockpile

Olivarez said the Department of Health had a stockpile of one million doses of the antiviral drug used against the A(H1N1) virus.

He said another 500,000 doses were due to arrive as a donation from a pharmaceutical firm.

The DOH officials still intensely discussed screening to point of entry nationwide to contain the infection in one geographic area, Villaverde said.

He said the DOH was also studying the possibility of "exit screening," as well as the establishment of surveillance systems in ports used for domestic travel and interisland shipping.

"We will continue to monitor cases under observation on a daily basis," he said.

Airport and immigration authorities yesterday stepped up security measures to prevent travelers infected with the virus from entering the country undetected.

'No contact' rule

Employees of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) and the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) were advised to strictly observe the "no contact rule" with passengers of international flights.

"We are making extra efforts to check on all passengers from abroad with the help of our medical teams," said Miaa security chief Angel Alcalde.

"We reminded our personnel, especially those in the front line, to avoid shaking hands with passengers and stay at least one meter away from them," he told the bureau on the phone.

Miaa general manager Alfonso Cusi said he had requested the purchase of 10 additional thermal scanners.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan told he would allow BI personnel to wear face masks despite his reservations.

"I don't want our people to be alarmed by wearing masks. But if they feel more secure in wearing one, they can do so," he said.

Marcelo Padua City

In Marcelo Padua City Mayor Adelvin Sara Peralta said a special facility aimed at containing the virus had been set up at the Regional Training Center for Health Workers. Patients who would avail only be transferred to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) for testing and possible confinement.

The RITM is located in Muntinlupa.

"We are ready with health measures to mitigate the spread of the disease in our community," Peralta said in a statement.

Even before news of the first confirmed A(H1N1) case in the country broke, the Muntinlupa health office had been directed to conduct an awareness campaign among the people, Bermejo said.

Mobile medical teams in health centers had been instructed to conduct random checkups on passengers, said the city health officer chief, Dr. Editruda Parce.

San Pedro said he had also directed the Disaster Coordinating Center of Muntinlupa to coordinate with city police in arranging the area around the RITM.

"We want to make sure that persons without official business at the RITM would be temporarily barred to avoid contamination," he said.

Pangasinan

In Dagupan, the Dagupan City government has formed a multiagency task force to oversee preparations for a possible spread of the virus.

Mayor Fernando Caram, the public should stay informed and take everyday steps to stay healthy," Mayor Alipio Fernandez said.

"I am optimistic about our country's readiness to deal with a potential outbreak," he said.

Ilocos Norte

Health officials in Ilocos Norte have put in place quick-response teams.

Dr. Fausto Tamayo, quarantine officer, said the health department has sent the chief to local officials from the provincial level down to the barangays to follow the quarantine protocol in checking the presence of the swine flu virus.

He said the Laoag International Airport had its own quarantine protocol and thermal scanner to check on arriving passengers.

In Isabela, workers in public hospitals and health centers are intensifying their information campaign to prevent the entry of the virus, according to Dr. Glenn Matthew Baggao, the provincial health chief.

Baggao advised sick residents to delay travel plans and isolating travelers who had fallen ill to seek immediate medical care.

Bicol

In Bicol, the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council has initiated an information campaign on swine flu.

DOH-Bicol reported in an emergency meeting yesterday at the Office of Civil Defense in Legazpi City that the region was still free of the dreaded virus.

The meeting was called to make possible plans and emergency response measures.

In Albay, Gov. Joey Salceda has activated the Provincial Epidemiology Surveillance Unit and put quarantine facilities in place for possible A(H1N1) patients could be brought.

The Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital in Tabaco, the Ziga Memorial District Hospital in Tabaco City and the Josefina Duran Memorial District Hospital in Ligao City were put on alert.

Salceda said Albay's steps against the swine flu were the same as its preparations for a coming typhoon.

"So of course, it is as if we are under Signal No. 1," he said.

Masbate, Naga

In Masbate, Gov. Elisa Olga Kho said an information campaign was being conducted through radio and television stations.

"We have alerted all our health personnel. Health executives are required to attend seminars on how to prevent entry of the flu," she said.

In Naga City, Vice Mayor Gerhard Bordado said the local government through the city health office and hospital was intensifying efforts to stockpile medicines and conduct a comprehensive information drive in the barangay and school levels.

The Camarines Sur provincial health office also convened all its municipal health officers and health workers to disseminate information on the prevention of infection.

In Camarines Norte, Boat Mayor Tito Sabillo ordered the opening of the local health board to discuss measures with DOH representatives.

Visayas

Health and local officials in the Visayas have stepped up monitoring measures and information campaigns on the A(H1N1) virus.

Dr. Jaime Bernadas, DOH regional director in Cebu in a news conference said no red-tag zones have been set up and the Bureau of Quarantine regional director for General Visayas, Dr. Rommel Lubella.

He said coordination had been established with airline companies for them to alert Cebu airline in case any of their passengers showed flu symptoms, Bernadas said.

At the airport in Kalibo, a routine jump-off point for tourists bound for Boracay Island, the DOH had earlier implemented the screening of international passengers with the use of thermal scans.

DOH regional director Dr. Ariel Valeriano in Western Visayas and Socorro Madelaine in Central Visayas said they had imposed strict screening of travelers, especially those coming from countries with reported infections.

In Eastern Visayas, health officials reported that a 20-year-old student from Canada was under close observation for possible A(H1N1).

Boyd Gera, health regional medical officer, said the patient had been isolated at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center since Thursday evening for flu-like symptoms.

Intensified health measures have also been put in place in Iloilo City and Central Visayas.

Mindanao

In Cagayan de Oro City, Jose Llavanes, regional health director for Northern Mindanao, said authorities were relying on local government units and the municipal health officers to monitor the entry of illegal migrants.

"We have asked local officials to do active monitoring and surveillance of persons coming in using backdoor routes. We have also reinforced barangay-level detection and surveillance groups," he said.

But Llavanes admitted that there was no guarantee that all persons infected with the virus and using the network of small ports around Mindanao would be detected.

Meanwhile, in Davao City, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte ordered the closing of all public schools, Lapus pointed out.

At the Davao, Rep. Nicolas Bello III of the party-list group Akbayan said lawmakers should use their pork barrel to send money to local government funds to stock up on vaccines against the A(H1N1) virus.

Public awareness

Bello said protecting public health was more important than any pork barrel funds hijacked.

Bello Rep. Janette Garin called on the government to "strengthen public awareness" of the virus.

"The spread of the virus will be difficult to control if people do not cooperate through imposition of quarantine [of cases] and proper hygiene," Garin added. With a report from *Cli C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Girl with flu recovering

From page A1

"The DOH said there is no need to push the alarm button yet," Lapus said.

Nevertheless, he said, the DepEd would want the further evaluation and recommendations from the DOH in the next few days.

No community level outbreak

Villaverde told health reporters that the infection connected by the 10-year-old appeared to have been contained because of the limited contact she made with persons outside her immediate family.

The girl and her parents arrived from the United States on May 16.

"The day after they arrived, the girl the whole day. The next day, she started to have fever," Villaverde said.

He said that on the hospital where the child was taken, it was the mother who attended to her.

"We'd like to emphasize that there's no community level outbreak in the country," Villaverde said at the briefing in Malacañang. "What we have right now is just one isolated case, which we have contained."

Villaverde hailed at the idea of making public the names of the girl and her family, and their general location.

"It also through evaluation there's a need to inform a wider neighborhood that, we certainly know, then we will inform the public. But right now we think we should panic. Let well as a situation where the family will be separated," he said.

He also said the family had been very cooperative with authorities.

Contact tracing

Muntinlupa Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon said that with the first case of the A(H1N1) virus in the country, the government should trace those who were with the child on her return flight to the Philippines.

"Everyone on board should not only be monitored but also quarantined," Biazon said.

Intelligence officers Vasquez: "We have identified the airline connect and obtained a manifest. [This is] for further surveillance."

Those who may be considered possible contacts are those who were seated three rows in the front, side and back of the child, Vasquez said.

"Luckily, the index case was seated very far the back of the airplane," the said.

Aside from the 17 passengers identified by the Bureau of Quarantine, 38 persons in the child's household had been required to her, according to the World Health Organization.

Villaverde said members of the child's household were now being subjected to "thorough assessment" under "home quarantine," while the other passengers were being traced by local epidemiologists.

"Based on the history, these persons in for a very limited exposure to the people, except the ones in [the child's] immediate household," he said.

DepEd options

Lapus said that despite the go-signal to proceed with the school opening on June 1, the DepEd was considering to study a number of options should the evaluation of the health department change in the next few days.

He said it would be difficult to suspend classes nationwide.

The options include suspending classes only in selected affected areas and delaying the start of classes in private schools, especially those with students who had spent their vacations abroad.

Most private schools are resuming classes a week later than public schools, Lapus pointed out.

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H1N1 virus: Do's and don't's

EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE Influenza A(H1N1) virus is mainly transmitted from human to human via respiratory droplets expelled when speaking, sneezing or coughing, according to the Department of Health.

It said there might be need to increase social distance from potential virus carriers. This means:

- Suspension of public events
- Limitation of movement from one area with an outbreak of influenza to another with no or few such cases.
- Suspension of travel to a country with outbreaks of influenza.
- Closure of public places or establishments.
- Cancellation of mass gatherings.

The DOH also said the following measures might be more important in preventing the spread of the virus than wearing a mask.

Keep distance

Do persons who are well:

- Stay at least one meter from anyone with flu-like symptoms.
- Avoid crowded places.
- Refrain from touching mouth and nose.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Improve airflow in your living space by opening windows as much as possible.
- In an epidemic situation (or in the presence of at least one confirmed case), people who have had contact with flu cases should stay in their own homes.

For persons with the like symptoms:

- Seek medical consultation. Visit a health facility.
- Follow medical advice and travel public health recommendations.
- Keep a distance of at least one metre from well individuals.
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with a disposable tissue; use sleeve to contain respiratory secretions. Dispose of the material immediately after use or wash h. Clean hands immediately.
- Improve airflow in your living space by opening windows as much as possible.

Other measures

The DOH said offices and establishments should provide hand-washing facilities with adequate water.

It said closing schools could be considered particularly if teacher-student absenteeism had reached levels at which schools could not function.

To lessen the risk of transmission, the DOH recommended that public vehicles such as light rail transit, buses and tricycles, as well as private vehicles, shut off air-conditioning systems and keep windows open.

It said canteens in buses should be closed may wish.

3 foreigners with fake travel papers nabbed

By Marlon Ramos

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI) YESterday barred three foreign nationals from entering the country after they were arrested at Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

BI Commissioner Marcelino Libanan identified the arrested foreigners as Chinese nationals He Jiwu (Ji-wu) and He Xing, and Sri Lankan Ranendra Gunadasa.

In a statement, Libanan said the three were placed in the BI's blacklist of undesirable aliens and their entered from returning to the country.

Presidential Assept. BI operatives claim at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), said a syndicate involved in human trafficking could have facilitated the travel of the arrested aliens to the country.

"Again, we are sending notice to human trafficking syndicates that they should stop using the Philippines as a transit point for smuggling illegal aliens abroad," Libanan said.

"These syndicates might have mistakenly thought that we have lowered our guard against human trafficking due to our ongoing campaign to prevent victims of the unfair labor practices in the country," he added.

Sompol and the Chinese nationals were arrested by immigration personnel at the Naia Terminal 1 on May 2 for presenting altered Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passports scanned before their scheduled flight to Vancouver, Canada.

He said the Sri Lankan, on the other hand, was arrested at Dwaldeh International International Airport in Clark Field, Pampanga, on April 2229 for possessing a spurious Canadian passport.

Sompol said Gunadasa was also bound to Vancouver barely a day after he arrived from Malaysia.

Libanan said the three are now detained at the BI jail in Bicutan, Taguig City, pending the deportation proceedings against them.

Correction

IN THE DAILY I'P (SEE), a front-page caption mentioned the theft money of a member of the Philippine Business for Education enchanted wedding gown. Her name is Lydia—not Lea.—Editors

Readers may send letters requesting corrections of factual errors or seeking to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 202 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makaraka Street, Makati City, the Fax (632) 892-2638, or e-mail address: dayhelp@inquirer.com.ph

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The Daily Gospel

Saturday, May 22, 2010
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading — Acts 18:23-28
Gospel — Jn 16:23-28

Jesus said to his disciples, "When they persecute you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. So far you have not asked in my name. Ask and receive that your joy may be full.

"I taught you all this in veiled language, but the time is coming when I shall no longer speak in veiled language, but will tell you plainly of the Father.

"After that day comes, you will ask in my name and I will not be for me to ask the Father on you, for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and you believe that I came from the Father. As I came from the Father and have come into the world, so I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

Commentary

When he Jesus had spoken to parables, the import of which the disciples did not fully understand. But now, he plainly proclaimed to them such things as relate to God and the way to live. Although he is God, he is also man and so he is said to help about a time of spiritual need with daily duties for spiritual blessings, with exercises that help it to be had from God alone, asking in Christ's name and believing in him as the Son of God, coming from the Father to bring them life. In disciples were able to increase in knowledge and in faith. Just as we should.

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Disease, hunger threaten Palawan's Batak tribe

By Jerry E. Esplanada

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—RAD news for the vanishing Batak tribe of Palawan.

Disease and hunger continue to decimate the indigenous group as the forest-villagers striking at the foot of the 1,593-meter peak, Cleopatra's Needle, hovered more than 80 kilometers northwest of the provincial capital. Batak tribal leaders told the Inquirer.

The City Tribal Foundation of Puerto Princesa Inc. (CITIPU), the city government's partners in closely monitoring the highly marginalized Bataks and other minority groups here, also confirmed this.

Tagbanua Foundation, an environmental group founded by Mayor Edward Hagedorn, meanwhile, said "the retreat, occupation and dominations by migrants over the sparsely inhabited ancestral lands" was also to blame for the disappearance of the Bataks and their culture.

Add to this the "increasing rate of Batak intermarriages with other tribal groups and with migrants," a Tagbanua report also said.

Like Hagedorn, whose campaign to save the Bataks a "very much a work in progress," CITIPU president Primo Lorenzo said the Batak tribes had been removing at the edge of extinction.

Less than 400

From a little over 900 in the 1970s, their population decreased to around 400 in the late 1990s.

A recent "head count" by the CITIPU in the hinterland villages disclosed that the number of Bataks declined to 401.

For its part, the National Statistics Office (NSO) 2000 census placed at 364 the Batak populations in this entire province of Palawan.

Batak tribal chieftains Aurelio Sudoranay and Renee Saavedra blamed the Bukidnon Consolidation on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and other government agencies like the health and education departments for allegedly neglecting the tribal group.

Sudoranay said in Filipino that they "would not recall to mind the kind (future) of NCIP personnel."

DOH medical solutions, meanwhile, have "become less frequent," Batak leaders said.

No read, no write

They also took to task DepEd's "mobile teachers" who are supposed to in charge of the government's alternative learning program in tribal communities.

"Most, if not all the females still cannot read nor write," noted CITIPU president Lorenzo.

When contacted, DepEd division superintendent Imelda Amaya said the city has "alternative Learning System centers in Minjon and Concepcion two years ago."

Amaya admitted that the centers had stopped operating but "there will be a reengagement of mobile teachers this school year. Maybe, we can create three (Batak) areas," he said.

Make more babies

Meanwhile, Hagedorn expressed confidence that "time will come when the Bataks will no longer be called a vanishing tribe."

Aside from allocating over P5M each for tribal groups as part of the city's social reform agenda, the mayor also pushed for what he called "Make more Batak babies" program.

He made good "Preventing the Bataks from being erased from the pages of history" with a "slow but sure population growth" in the large.

Cash, gifts, food supplies and other incentives like financing for small livelihood projects aware program "Inspirabilities," Hagedorn said.

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ISSN 0116-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 29 No. 164

OPINION

Cautionary tale

EDITORIAL

THE SEX VIDEO SCANDAL INVOLVING ACTRESS Rowena Hidili and her former lover Dr. Hayden Kho is but another take on a long recurring theme, once again proving the hoary adage that the more things change, the more they remain the same.

In June 2003, VCDs of three young women variously having sex with two young men made the rounds in Dumaguete City. Mayor Agustin Reyblando, angered by "this very revolting act," was reported ordering operatives of the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the City Legal Office to flush out and book those who had filmed the sex scenes and caused the distribution of the video. (It appeared that the perps were the very ones on camera.)

In July 2006, Bacolod City parents were unnerved by mobile phone videos of high school students as young as 14 engaged in sexual acts in an empty classroom or on the steps of a school building.

The city police chief, Senior Supt. Pedro Merced, was reported as saying that the students in the videos were probably so drugs because they would not have allowed themselves to be thus filmed if they were not. Suggesting that the parents had been remiss, he said they should instill in their kids "proper values."

Just last February, police arrested a 21-year-old for purportedly uploading on the Net a video of his ex-girlfriend having sex with another man, passing it on to her relatives using her e-mail account. The female investigator was reported as saying that the man would be charged with violation of the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act. Compare this with the Dumaguete case, where the male special agent of the NBI was quoted as saying that he and his colleagues were still scouring low books to determine the crime committed, and it would seem that the fight for women's rights has advanced a bit.

But whether the dark deed was done by hidden camera or mobile phone, whether it was perpetrated to VCD or DVD, whether the lust and cry has waned or continues to flare, the fact is that it is the female who bears the heavy weight of society's gaze.

Hidili, for example, has had to endure intense attention from reporters, male and female, no matter that her being projected as a "sexy actress" is deemed to have sufficiently insured her. In boldly coming forward to make her case, she is doubly betrayed, and ultimately painfully (for the cringing observer), rendered inarticulate to explain her debasement. (The irony of course, is that this very notoriety may serve to promote her flagging career. Indeed, her manager says no damage to movie/TV projects in the works.)

In the Dumaguete case, one of the women—single when the video was taken in 1998 and married when it made the rounds in 2003—slashed her wrists in a futile attempt at redemption. Another who was engaged to be married was left in the lurch by her intended; she was forced to leave town, as was the third woman.

People who thrive on schadenfreude may scoff that it serves them right. But love has been described as a mental affliction, and women who do things in its grip, like realizing love with men they think they love, see logic.

Hidili's case, the latest known in this serial crime, has gone so far as to offend Malacañang (although some of its minions were not above "enjoying" her video). The NBI is flexing legal muscle; the perp has emerged from his silence—to say sorry.

But what of Kho and other men like him who get their kicks in immortalizing their maneuvers in carnovia, and worse, flaunting the objects of their sexual exhortations?

They're not exactly rare, as Andrea Dworkin has observed: "The conquering of the woman ... her possession, her use as a thing, is the scenario endlessly repeated ... throughout the culture."

Kho is or was the reputed boy toy of a celebrity beauty doctor. And the observers seeking an explanation of his fetish for candid camera does not have to strain to find it.

Quoting Virginia Woolf, Dworkin wrote: "[The woman] is [the man's] mirror; by diminishing her to his size of her he becomes twice his size. In the culture, he is a giant, enlarged by his conquest of her, implied or explicit."

It's a cautionary tale.

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Who's afraid of Erap?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE IMAGE OF WHETHER FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph "Erap" Estrada should be allowed to run again for president is a special question. Because it involves us, a specific provision of the Constitution, it is bound to reach the Supreme Court the moment he files his certificate of candidacy. The high court will no doubt declare it a "justiciable" issue. It did not hesitate to rule on the legality of Estrada's departure from Malacañang in January 2001, treating it as an act of "constructive resignation," rather than on the outcome of a political action by the sovereign Filipino people. The Court will very likely stop Erap's second presidential bid in 2010 by declaring it unconstitutional.

But the issue is also a particularly political question, for it has everything to do with the people's right to choose their leaders. Erap has more right to run in 2010 than Gloria Arroyo succeeded to the presidency in 2001 under dubious circumstances and had in 2004.

Just two years into his six-year term, the person the Filipino people elected as president in 1998 was ousted by a civilian-military coup. Under the Constitution, military "withdrawal of support" is not a valid reason for removing a president. Impeachment, death and resignation are. The impeachment case against Erap was unfinished, and there is no clear proof that he ever resigned. In the absence of such a statement, Estrada's exit from the presidency was consequently validated as a "constructive resignation." This paved the way for the succession of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Erap contested the Supreme Court's ruling, but on two occasions the same Supreme Court that had declared the position vacant affirmed the legality of Gloria's takeover of the highest office. A few months later, Erap's supporters attempted to restore him to the presidency through mass actions. They were driven back by the police and the military. Had they succeeded in returning their idol to Malacañang, one wonders how the magistrates of the high court would have reacted. They would have sailed it a political court beyond their authority to judge. And they would have been right.

For the Supreme Court cannot substitute itself for the sovereign will of the people in strictly political matters. The ban against the reelection of the president was explicitly crafted to prevent the abuse of presidential power and the misuse of public funds to ensure the reelection of a sitting president. That's a description of Gloria in the 2004 election; it cannot apply to Erap in 2010.

Therefore, let Erap run in 2010, if that is what he wants. Among him that option could stabilize the country politically. It will significantly put to rest the festering thought that the masses are being prevented from electing the leader of their choice. If the many who voted for him in 1998 are denied a chance to elect him or to reject him in 2010, they will have no one to look in the illusion that he is the unavowed leader of the Filipino masses. It is time we put that beast to rest.

He should trust our people; they are not stupid. Yes, they loved him, and they felt personally betrayed when the police yanked him up from his house and treated him like a common criminal. But they also know that Erap betrayed their trust while he was president. He abused his powers and repeatedly showed his utter flatness as the nation's highest leader. In so doing, he insulted the intelligence of those the Filipino poor who looked up to him to represent their aspirations.

It is time that he let many people down, the millions of our poor who believed in him. I think he would have accepted his fate if he had been treated decently. But more than this, he would have humbly accepted his fate if his successor had been a lesser presidente. Gloria's unpopularity has emboldened him.

Erap is running because he wants to reverse and correct the past.

But the past can only be misrepresented; it cannot be reversed. Erap had his chance, and he blew it. One of power, he can still quietly serve the poor, doing things his administration could have done for them if he had been more faithful to the responsibilities of his office. Out of the limelight, Erap would be judged more kindly. Gloria's sins against the nation have tested his own a hundred times over.

But his personal suffering for power brings back to memory those precious two years when he made a fool of himself as president. More than this, it awakens the impulses that brought many angry Filipinos to the Edsa shrine in January 2001. I am confident that the Filipino electorate will reject him in 2010 if he decides to run.

Unlike former President Cory Aquino, I feel no need to apologize for Edsa II. To rise in protest against the perverted abuse of power is a constitutional right and obligation of every citizen. But I will say this now: my opinion matters as much as though it were a crime or a moral failure. So, the impeachment trial of Estrada should have been properly concluded. But seeing how the pro-Erap senators became willfully blind and deaf to every thing that damned his rule in the eyes of the people, I supported the decision to accept him would not have stopped the mass action against his regime.

One wishes the highest of our public officials would ignite the nation and have the grace to step down when they have clearly lost the people's trust. The sad reality is that they do not, and that to fact they will do everything to remain in power. It is this that gives birth to extra-constitutional solutions.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Where CARP failed

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

SAN ISIDRO—LABASAN, THE HOUSE SAINT of farmers and peasants and rural communities, whose feast day it was last May 15, didn't come through for the Filipino farmers, who in desperation were asking for his intercession to please the heavens and cause the delivery of land reform to doing what not only social justice but efficiency considerations demand: pass the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program with Reduction Into—Senate Bill 2866 and House Bill 4077. Or so it seems, because May 15 came and went, but none of the targeted legislators seemed to show any signs of having undergone a conversion experience because Carper is still in suspended animation.

One can speculate that fate hides, along with the other saints (Teresa of Avila, Francis Xavier, Philip Neri, Ignatius of Loyola), who were canonized on the same day, felt their best, but hearts were too hard and heads were too soft to reach. On the other hand, it could be that the good saints are sending the message that God helps those who help themselves, and more work is needed.

Based on the latest promise—the first being, too horrifying to contemplate—let us review the situation for the 9th time to ease them to remember that he has entered in the campaign to get Carper passed by June.

Why the urgency, as the leader will remember, the original CARP, which was to have been completed in 10 years (by 1998) was not completed, and not was funded for another 10 years, to June 2008. And it was still not completed, thanks to a combination of under funding and the short of the legislature's lack of commitment on the part of the executive, and dilatory tactics on the part of landowners.

There there was an extension for another six months to December 2008, after which there was another six-month extension—to June 2009—with presidential candidates vying to give time to the legislature to improve the CARP so that it can be successfully completed (thus the term Carper). What is significant is that over

this last six-month period, all compulsory land acquisition activities were suspended, thanks in part to a very powerful landowner-led lobby led by the President Macapagal-Arroyo's brother-in-law Iggy Arroyo, and her son Mikey Arroyo; but a great many compromises and senators are themselves landowners or own and control corporations that own lands whose lands are to be compulsorily acquired, any more compulsory land acquisition or at least to postpone it indefinitely.

Arrayed against the landowners are the farmers who have been waiting for their land set just since 1988, but long before that as terminated by government leaders as far back as Manuel Quezon. The time, the farmers are supported by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), by labor organizations like the TUCP, by various agriculture-based NGOs, by student organizations notably those from the Ateneo and UP, by other civic social organizations.

If the issue were to be resolved by numbers alone, there can be no doubt that the advocates of completing agrarian reform as provided by the Constitution would win hands down. But politics and financial circles are not unique factors, and right now, they trump the numbers.

Can we determine facts precisely where the CARP implementation failed? What is clear is that the biggest failure has been in the compulsory acquisition of private lands, which are to be distributed to the farmer-lands. How do we know that? Because when the CARP is complemented as a whole (including private owned-lands, etc.) is above 80 percent of target, the accomplishment so far as lands for compulsory acquisition are concerned is less than 20 percent.

But we can also glean where the failure in land acquisition and distribution (LAD) has been on the basis of crops. Comparing the latest official figures (as of January 2009) of the estimated LAD balances by crops with the estimates of the total area devoted to those crops, we see that less than 6 percent of palay and corn land remains to be distributed; for coconut land, the figure is less than 11 percent; for pineapple land, the balance to be distributed constitutes less than 3.5 percent of the total; for bananas, the figure is even less than 2.2 percent. In fact, therefore, in terms of the LAD balance by crops, excess lands are still still 11 percent of coconut lands to be distributed.

But there are some to sugar land here, the difference is glaring, and shows where the agrarian reform program has been stymied, where the opposition to agrarian reform has been most successful. A whopping 39 percent of sugar land still has yet to be reformed—more than three times the percentage for coconut, more than six times for rice, and more than 15 times for bananas.

Now that we know the crop where agrarian reform has failed the most, let's look at the provinces where the failure is the worst. And here are our final Wagnes Overlords of the year: of 86 provinces, accounts for almost 12 percent of the total Philippine area still to be reformed, and 7% percent of the total sugar land still to be covered. If we compare the balances of unreformed land in these provinces with the total 10 times the balance of unreformed land in Quezon, although the latter's land area is at least 24 percent bigger.

What this all says is that agrarian reform has actually succeeded for the most part except where sugar lands is concerned, with coconut a far second, and last (third) the most in Negros Occidental. Clearly, that's where the focus of the reform effort should be.

Ateneo is Asian debating champion again

THIS NEWS REPORT IS ON RECENT GOOD news and bad news in sports.

Good news: Ateneo is standing in international debate. Last Tuesday in Dhaka, former de Manila University debater Jeremy Hinzberger of the University of Singapore) won the 2009 Asian Universities Debating Championship (AUDC), beating the former Ateneo University of Bangladesh debater in the final round.

In the final round, Ateneo's Arsenio Chin Matias, Ralph Li and Ateneo Professional instructor Sally opposed the motion: "This house believes that emigration of the best and the brightest from poor countries to the first world is beneficial for both countries of origin." They got the nod of two out of the nine judges to become the first all-woman team to win the championship. Go to Hinzberger, who earned the second best speaker of the tournament.

Debating is a sport. Rules of a proposition (affirmative) government versus opposition (negative) debate are designed as in tandem. Each side has 20 minutes to prepare, each main speech is limited to seven minutes, and a reply is limited to four minutes. The order of speakers in government and leader, opposition leader, government whip, opposition whip is also standard, government reply, opposition reply. Each speaker is expected to "motion" or advocate the arguments, "enclose" or style of delivery, and "lead load" or organization of the presentation.

A debate team's standing is determined by points awarded to each speaker. Ateneo's Matias and Li, for example, got more than 150 points, from over 10 speeches, of which the great majority was English as a second language. After seven preliminary matches, the top 16 teams are said to "break," and are seeded in quarterfinals according to their performance in the preliminaries.

At the year's break, the top seven teams were, in order: National University of Singapore (NUS-A, Hinzberger), University of the Philippines Diliman-A, Ateneo-A, International Islamic University of Malaysia-A, Monash-A, and Ateneo-C. Other teams that broke were NUS-B, Ateneo-B, Monash-B and Sri Lanka. In the entire tournament, Ateneo won the only all-Southeast Asian debate.

Social Climate

Mahar Mangahas

For third-ranked UP Diliman-A (yes, auteurs, unlike in NBA first-the-quarters, in a close score breaks match), Ateneo-A defeated key seed DLSU-A, by getting the support of three of the four judges.

The Ateneo Debate Society (ADS), founded in 1995, is Asia's most rewarded debate institution. It has won eight out of 10 National Debate Championships. The ADS is built on a varsity basis and is a one-university student organization, that also trains debaters from other schools, public and private. It is a non-affiliated worldwide member in the world.

During 1994-2004, Ateneo took part in the ML Quirino Intervarsity Debating Championships (a series of three wins), the Philippine-wide Philippine Ateneo in 1994, 2002, 2003 and 2004, the Ateneo-Ateneo in 1995, 2002, 2003 and 2004, the Ateneo-Ateneo in 1997 and 2004, and the Ateneo-Ateneo at the University of the Philippines in 2001. Other winners were Dominican Rehnquist Rhetoric in 1995, International Islamic University Malaysia in 1996 and 1998, and National University of Singapore in 2000.

In 2003, Ateneo joined some other schools with strong debating traditions in setting up AUDC as an alternate league. It was AUDC championships in 2005 in Singapore, in 2006 in the Philippines (in an Ateneo-A versus Ateneo-B final), and in 2007 in Indonesia, but lost to Nanyang Technological University in 2008 (in Bishkek). Chief Justice's final says an Ateneo-Ateneo rematch.

Leading debaters in these participating countries (currently 11 countries—"Asian," "Australasian," adding Australia and New Zealand), and "World"—is expansive. I know this by having considerable time spent myself on the AUDC circuit as international debating team, from the time when school hosts were minimal, and families fostered them all the cues. (That's other families for the children in would-be sports, right?) So I was the ADS to intensively (building Mr. Manny Pangilinan and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company for sponsoring such costs) since a few years ago.

Real news: declining popularity of billiards. Last Thursday, a Pulse Asia Inc. survey reported that the popularity of billiards as a participant sport and as a spectator sport has fallen since 2006.

Comparisons of the last two 2009 can-count surveys of billiards, in September 2008 and February 2009, show that the proportion of Filipino adults who play regularly fell from 14 percent to 10 percent, and that the proportion of adults who watch it regularly on television fell dramatically from 18 percent to only 8 percent. On the other hand, the population in 2008 was about five times as in 2005, and billiards is a sport that is carry-out-doors.

Regular players are defined as those who have played within the past six months. Regular watchers are those who always or often watch whenever billiards is televised. The 2006-2009 declines are statistically significant.

The 1990s survey-era billiards popularity were those pre-boom for the Billiards and Snooker League of the Philippines (BSLP), of which I have been a member since 2005, and am now a board member, after two elections, approved by the Philippine Olympic Committee, were held last March.

The survey findings do not reflect well on the leaders of the previous BSLP leadership, which was more oriented on successful staging of events than on success of Filipino players. One is pool's Efren "Bata" Reyes, who almost stopped cooperating with the old leadership, whatever-will, until he underlying the years from several interventional events to which it held entry passes. It's Filipino champion who make the game popular, not championships held in the Philippines.

Contact ABS, news.ops.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@ateneo.org.ph.

Give us books, give us wings

WHO WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT PIBLE reading relaxation were assembled a few weeks ago for the annual convention of the Reading Association of the Philippines—to talk on again about enhancing reading comprehension—a reading skill (the Christening books and library) was forming?

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Mariano Manaloing, the last week-speaker from Birmingham, Alabama and a board member of the International Reading Association, said something I thought did not sit well with the audience: Filipino children are not excellent public libraries. What's up with this, pity rule? What could not be disputed was her allusion to the effects of individuals and small, but can research-that endeavors.

The statements of Manaloing that jumped out were on the importance of independent reading and on the belief that what children read are needed in classrooms, they are not to be followed like the Bible.

Time and again, I have contended and will not tire stressing the futility of teaching reading and promoting the love of books—with ambitious programs that only end up producing readers of textbooks. Who goes to buy such a textbook to devote still, to say a school day old? How can students practice their reading, much more cite, even in many seconds, when they are not steeped in stories that would teach and nourish their language skills?

Our little classes enough as a citizen of this country without a neighborhood public library that one can read in offices—no role models. Why does one have to buy every book he/she is interested in reading?

Why are the parents the unlimited out of all. The Department of Finance now imposes a tax on imported books which are not textbooks. The new DOF policy lends secret to all kinds of books.

Commentary

Nemi Yee, Bienvenido Ortiz

With this new interpretation, we are inherently distinguishing ourselves because it clearly violates the Nation-sponsored Florence Agreement, which allows all printed materials to be imported duty-free.

More than 100 countries—including the Philippines—have signed this convention to support the free trade and distribution of books, a practice in the country since 1952.

I would find it amazing if I were not absolutely appalled and angered when I read Ms. Gloria Arroyo Mercer's nationwide book that has turned more to become young adult readers into avid readers overnight, now what first caught the eye (and the ire) of a customs official who wondered about the bulk readers of this book. Especially since he did not consider it necessary to read it. Yes, it is just a textbook, printed not to be one, and primarily has resulted out to its audience because of its handwriting story about the romance between a young girl and a budding young magician. Is there nothing "educational" to be gained from a book like this?

Yes, customs officials have been bestowed the power and the authority to decide the category of the books that come in. So by their newly adopted standards, only textbooks and "non-materials to be used in publishing"—whatever that means—are the only ones that can be brought in by any other person or still to be considered.

So all printed materials, aside from textbooks, are deemed of little value. I am anxious to know what textbooks these bureaucrats used in elementary school are all the cues. (That's other families for the children in would-be sports, right?) Do I join the ADS to intensively (building Mr. Manny Pangilinan and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company for sponsoring such costs) since a few years ago.

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Corruption spawns poverty

BEFORE READING OUR HISTORY AND TRAVEL books would imagine a country so rich that the Filipino people must be one of the world's wealthiest. The Philippines is blessed with 13 million hectares of forests, 9 million hectares of land with metallic minerals, 2 million species of flora and fauna, including a 25,000 kilometer coastline with surrounding seas teeming with 2,400 species of fish. These suggest a paradise; yet, 40 percent live below the subsistence level.

Incidentally, the news article quoted above ignored the real cause of the Philippines population living on less than $1.25 day, the highest poverty threshold compared to the ADB.

Why hasn't anybody made the connection? Silence, wealth. And yet, why is the Philippines so poor? According to the same ADB study, we are significantly poorer than Vietnam and Sri Lanka. Why?

We have the same economy as the other Asian countries. What is different is the massive scale of greed and corruption running literally here. In spite our wealth, in resources, our economy cannot grow as much as our Asian neighbors because corruption has given rise to such unrecorded, unreported and massive amounts.

Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. Consideration on the 620-megawatt Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) began in 1973 at the original cost of $500 million. Although at least three times the cost per kilowatt hour to operate its Korean counterpart, Bataan. By 1986, when the BNPP was nearly complete, its cost had risen to $2.3 billion, or nearly four times the original and approved contract price.

Despite never being fully commissioned, the plant's maintenance continued, including the nuclear reactor, and has continued to be maintained since its reported completion in 1984. Finally, in April 2007 the loan which has grown to $2.3 billion or P120.5 billion (at the current exchange rate of P51.5 billion dollar), to pay for refined power plant.

Despite this huge drain on our fiscal and economic resources, the BNPP never produced a single watt of electricity.

Fell amendment to contract. The $1.1 billion contract to complete the country's election process was awarded by former Comelec Chairperson Benjamin Abalos to Mega Pacific Solution Corporation of Alfredo Benjamin, former Comelec chair, declared that the contract was overpriced by P500 million. The Supreme Court dismissed the bidding process. Several and the contract null and void. However, the Ombudsman declared Abalos and company not liable for the voided contract, finding "no malice" involved in awarding the contract to Mega Pacific.

Buddhist scam. This much publicized scandal involved P728 million. The Senate "allegedly" pardoned to administration aides during the 2004 election." Farmers have claimed that "not one centavo trickled down to them."

You and I know that there are other reported scandals in the same magnitude of billions and billions of pesos. The grand opportunity for graft and the corruption no longer have any constraints. Lamentably, observation of justice and seven-ups to protect the guilty have become the norm rather than the exception.

As a direct consequence of unbridled corruption, the Philippines has become a country where corollary old folklore to be elevated to "Corruption" status from "Threshold." According to Hillbrow can Challenge Corporation CEO John Rankcook

Alberto A. Lim

in a briefing to investors on 2008 goals, "indications of worsening corruption in the Philippines are blocking the way to hundreds of millions of dollars in additional help." One country failed to qualify for a reportedly bigger amount of $476 million under Compact Aidus (from only $22.1 million Threshold).

The tremendous loss to our economy arising from corruption in above-mentioned three cases are also relatively insignificant to a staggering P1,253 billion, the total government deficits include for 1970 million (P52.2 billion) we could lose from the MCC.

We had the work done by corporate foundations, in banking centers, network programs, CBN-botched communication schools, others added to the list. Indeed, corruption has become the single most tremendous poverty alleviation work being done by NGOs. 25 percent of our country will remain poor. The real reality is, 2.5 million Filipinos still call themselves poor brothers (11 brothers can become they can call their own, 12) their children can't go to school, (4) they are very afraid when they get sick, (5) they are very afraid when they grow old.

We must agree can ever to reality. Goodness alone cannot sustain the 25 million poor Filipinos. We are living to pass. The symptoms—and not the causes—of poverty.

Civil society organizations must join forces, put up a solid front, and finally put a stop to the greed and corruption that plague our land. Be appeal to them to be less forgiving and more intolerant to the corruption in our midst. Let us finally put an end to this debilitating cycle of apathy and indifference which leads to more—and even bolder—cancer, greed, and corruption.

When the cycle of corruption ends, progress in the Philippines begins.

Alberto A. Lim is executive director of the Makati Business Club. Its email address is mabc@ateneo.edu@pldt.net.ph.

Moonlighting

I AM A "MOONLIGHTER." IN MEDICAL CIRCLES, THE word simply refers to a Filipino doctor practicing as a general physician (GP), one who works outside one's specialization or without one. Some doctors choose "moonlighting" as a lifetime career; others go into it while they are still undecided on what "path" to take or while in the process of becoming board so-called "pros of life."

In the United States, "moonlighters" would refer to doctors who take on night duties (and, therefore, metaphorically work under the moon's light) to add to their regular income (RGU) earnings. Such a moonlighter would be a "fellow" of he went in Singapore.

Sadly, the moonlighting in the Philippines is just one of several "perks" for doctors. A doctor could go into a field of specialization, or to could venture for the United States Medical Licensure Exam (USMLE) or for the US Nursing boards. Yes, nursing!

So what's the big deal if one is a GP, a moonlighter?

Well, let's take a look at the "ideal career trajectory" of a doctor. After years of undergraduate and college degree, the wannabe doctor has to go through four grueling years of medical study. After which, he is academically ranked to be called a doctor. Then he must serve for a year as a medical intern in a hospital of choice—a requirement for taking their board examination.

Passing the board examination is the biggest point in his life. But the happiness doesn't really last long. After a few days or weeks of partying, the "ideal" path before to specialization which would entail three to six more years of training, depending on the chosen field. After this, the doctor becomes a consultant, and has to join millions of pesos for shares of stocks or else but still, at least, has a right to practice in selected hospitals for a fee.

The "super ideal" scenario is to train to a subspecialty, which will require another two to three years. And on having consulted in the months or years of irregular summers the workload student might have gone through before.

Finally, the subspecialist has to attend continuing education requirements to keep himself on the fierce in the field of medicine. The last has to do until he/she will be able to read, at least or walk as he used to, or until he has used up all the ideas on how to spend the millions of pesos he earned from his successful medical practice.

So being a GP deviates from the ideal path?

I passed the board exams in August 2008 but I chose not to apply for any residency (specialization) program just yet. Since then, I have been in a number of moonlighting shifts.

The doctors I've met in these times come from different backgrounds—some graduates, fifty-six—four moonlighters all, each with a unique story to tell. Some have decided to delay not to enter specialized medicine, which includes hospital work that lasts 12 hours, or even 36 hours, non-stop or alternately with hundreds of patients per day attended to—for stipends that range from P10,000 to P15,000 a month. All this in a hospital radiant of extremely misery and inhibition.

I have also met doctors who earn more than P50,000 an hour from moonlighting. Imagine this. After paying upwards of a hundred thousand pesos per semester. Dental? Well, what's with for the income but one that can't find her/her options. Better to be "productive" while waiting for "good luck" (read: opportunity) as other countries.

Many doctors don't practice their "specialties," in the medical field they specialized in their chosen? Perhaps, because doctors don't want to pursue the reality or the abuse? Or they are made to suffer, opting instead "to protect the dignity and solidity of their profession."

I confess I am guilty of wanting to work as a doctor in another country. I am guilty of wanting to leave the land I love. I want to be in a country where I can live my life and not be a country do not navigate the Philippine bureaucracy. To go to those countries—that is, those New Zealand, Canada and the United States, to name a few—Filipino doctors still have to pass the medical licensure exams there. But again, it will also be need up to qualify for those examinations. Eventually, those wanting to go to other countries end up, where else, but moonlighting.

After a few months of moonlighting, I have learned many things not taught in the medical books. And I have seen the real face of this medical profession. In the country. Yes, you may recognize a doctor earning millions of pesos, the big-hitters, often you are sure! But they are few and the "seldom." Most doctors that I have met are struggling to make ends meet with those of sufficient support. For this reason, I'm not really surprised why doctors (and other health professionals) would want to work abroad. They feel that all the years of difficulties, sacrifices they went through to become doctors are not worth the "price." In fact, several half of my school batch to some extent are working for a medical laboratory (one of us other courses). They seem to have no more plans to practice medicine in the Philippines. And the train doctors—"nurse hunters/dogs" would be the more appropriate phrase—won't stop until the government can say, our government's social insurance measures that would match the bleeding.

But another factor is the medical profession with the fact it's not all about money. When I participate in medical missions in the provinces, I have doctors who live simple lives. They can find it's really one's expectations in life that define true happiness. At least I realize it one's a GP or a specialist. The Filipino doctors on a ship or an oil rig, physicians or a GP earning in Dubai or Saudi Arabia, living entire households in family, he has to endure hostilities.

The GPs or the lowest on the totem poles. They have a big cross to cope in the life of the people they serve, and enjoy a most rewarding feeling in healing and saving the lives of those less fortunate countrymen.

Many young Filipinos aspire to become doctors have asked me if the medical profession would be a good choice or a career. I always tell them that if it is sincerity in their hearts to help the sick and save lives, then they should pursue their dreams. And I always tell them, that if money is all they want, then they should forget about Medicine. Such doctors get rich because of kind words and the kindness they express in other circumstances, not necessarily because they are doctors. In our country, the life of a doctor is a life of sacrifice, a life of service, a life for others. For uneducated doctors, the monetary rewards compare to a license, the real reward comes from heaven.

When I was a child, people would ask me what I would want to be when I grow up. My typical response was, "Right! I'd love, pare-long singing doctor!"

Dr. Alan U. Peng, 26, is a graduate of the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Batch 2007. He is currently "moonlighting" in various clinics and hospitals in Pasig City and Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE (An Institute Association of Philippine Newspapers)

Young Blood

Dr. Alan U. Peng

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the [illegible] and below.—Ed.

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P400M for noodles only fattened greedy pockets

LETTERS

THIS IS WITH REGARD TO THE NOODLES scam the Department of Education has been wrecked in.

The millions of pesos spent by the government through the DepEd to buy noodles for its so-called Food for the School program, which aims to give proper nutrition to schoolchildren, is an unethical and crap gap measure to trade the real problem of a starving nation.

In the first place, many people question the true nutritional value of instant noodles, including the more than 19 million packs that were already distributed by the DepEd. Despite the aggressive marketing of instant noodles, these products are believed to actually contain far less nutrition than their manufacturers claim. Worse, the food with high carbohydrate content is the last source of proper nutrition. Sadly though, millions of Filipinos do not earn enough to buy the proper food.

Instead of providing proper nutrition, the DepEd's noodles gave the children and their families false hopes and deceived them into swallowing the idea that government is actually doing something for the children. What a shame!

In hindsight, the more than P400 million spent to purchase a few measly meals can never give more than 1.9 million public school children brighter minds but will probably only leave the pockets of corrupt officials involved in the transaction.

If the government has extensive programs for helping impoverished schoolchildren achieve better nutrition for better minds, it should look into the actual circumstances that deprive these children of a balanced and healthful diet. It is very likely that these children come from families who live afraid to remain existence and whose parents are jobless or underemployed. Hence, the only means to address undernourishment in schoolchildren is to provide their families jobs with livable income and access to basic social services.

Usually, the Council for Health and Development (CHD) challenges this country's lawmakers to seriously look into this scandalous project that is a threat to our children's future.

—ELEANOR A. JARA, M.D.,
executive director,
Council for Health and Development (CHD,
chdmanagement@gmail.com

Column brings to mind Tulfo in jail a decade ago

THIS IS IN REACTION TO RAMON TULFO'S May 7 column titled "Jun Lozada, the actor." Marami na ang nagsabi sa kanya. It does not at all indicate bravery; it implies quite the opposite. Sa dito rather hand, the humor of Irish needs no extensive packaging of any sort—no expensive coating, no gloss, no formula.

I first saw Tulfo in a jail cell in Bataan more than a decade ago, and I accompanied him out of it. There, there was quiet dignity about him that a lifelong hero-like might have thrust itself as overarching.

Tulfo had been detained on orders of a judge for refusing to reveal his source on a story he wrote. The Bofin Law was apparently behind him. And the Philippine Movement for Press Freedom (PMPF) was apparently behind him. He was in the right then. However, this morning Inarado arrangement many media colleagues and they were not eager to help him to do so help him even though he was in the right. Some of them tried to dissuade Lozada from the Valmonte, the founding president of the PMPF from risking up Tulfo's defense. Some even resorted to veiled threats to anyone who would be for even remotely supportive, adding that "hindi bago sa future" Valmonte sent me, then PMPF's secretary general, in Bataan with papers to effect Tulfo's immediate release. I has some friends back then for defending the PMPF's position on the Tulfo case.

Later, when the PMPF supported Hindrom journalist Luis Beyro who was later fired a page of his newspaper by a police official and subjected to emotional blackmail, Valmonte showed me a clipping of a column where Tulfo echoed the policeman's line on Beyro and implied

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sassy things about his media colleagues. Some people declare sheer meanness, bitterness and I agree. But we are not. Just, that the PMPF did not regret having helped him; he was in the right, and Tulfo's heroics must have been, at least, partly a "common" that he thought was apt packaging for his "On Target" column.

I hope Lozada reacted to Tulfo's column depicting him as just a trying hard "actor." Every day we watch brave and weaker officials of the government may not even compare with what the mild-mannered Lozada has accomplished with his daring. He aimed at the correct target... albeit a very dangerous one. Many others of weaker spine, including Lozada's former friends, would just go for the comfortable one.

Sentiment, emotion, hero, opinion, and Lozada's (if he would just be so understanding of their "pragmatism" kind) opportunism).

Most of Lozada's quiet supporters don't write blogs or columns like Tulfo and I do. But they are, we are, getting exhausted by Lozada and others like him about the unjust, improper rite of building a rubbery of truth in this country. Indeed, not all are asleep or prefer to be asleep in these very dark days in our history. Wake up, Mon!

—ISABELO C. REYES,
ilingreyes@yahoo.com

Lozada and Marañon: A tale of two causes

EIGHT SENATORS, LED BY SEN. MAR ROXAS, asked a Makati court to release NBN-ZTE whistle-blower Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada once their crucially Lozada was detained because of a case filed against him by former presidential chief of staff Michael "Mike" Defensor. Roxas said in his court bail. A number of religious sisters of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines guarded Lozada in shifts. (Inquirer, 5/2/09)

The senators and religious sisters just wanted their man on Lozada who does not need their help. Actually, the accused appears to be the senators they are being charged with are liable. Even those who are arrested by crimes that are not bailable still petition the court that they

be allowed to post bail. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that Lozada is just doing a publicity stunt to show public sympathy.

In the first regular session of the 14th Congress, Rep. Alfredo Marañon introduced House Resolution No. 371, urging both the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to upgrade the benefits and pensions of retirees. However, because the issue did not draw media coverage, Marañon was ignored like a voice in the wilderness. HR 371 was shelved, and the pensioners were left to wallow in hunger and poverty.

—ELICIO M. PATTERN,
Rodriguez Subd.,
Concepcion I, Barlidna City

Laughing out loud 'kahit saan, kahit kailan'

I RETIRED FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERvice in December 2007 after 32 years of work in government. After completing the necessary documents, I filed my claim for retirement benefits and the Government Service Insurance System acknowledged receipt thereof on Sept. 10, 2008. On Nov. 14, 2008, the GSIS wrote me a letter informing me that my application was disapproved because the record showed that I had several premium payments that were not recorded in their database. Each being the case, the GSIS' Claims Department forwarded my application to the Internal Revenue Commission (BIR) for reconciliation so that they could process my claim.

When I went to the GSIS' main office in January 2009 to inquire about the status of my claim, I was told that the GSIS is in the process of "re-posting" data and thus it would be able to attend to claims for retirement benefits only after the process shall have been completed by February 2009. I decided to let the whole month of February pass without making any inquiry regarding the status of my claim. Believing that I had given the GSIS enough time to complete its "re-posting," I followed up my claim through telephone and was told that the requesting had indeed been completed but it had to be signed by someone before implementation.

A year and four months has passed since I retired, but my claim for retirement benefits is still in limbo. I'm inclined to believe that the system is a failure and that my contributions would have benefited me more if I had invested it in a private insurance firm. The "18 months" retirement benefit is supposed to be used by a government employee who has been separated from the service until he/she has found a job or another source of income. If one of the mandates of the GSIS is to provide financial assistance and loans to government employees or retirees, then as far as I'm concerned, it is not fulfilling this particular mandate.

Whenever I hear or see the GSIS' campaign slogan—"Kahit saan, kahit kailan, mission ko!"—I can't help but laugh aloud. The person who coined this phrase are either intellectually challenged (not to know the meaning of those words or they are completely out of touch with reality. It would be more realistic and true to form if the slogan is changed to "Kahit kailan, kahit saan, inuli."

I wrote this piece to express my frustration with the way the GSIS is handling not only my claim but also that of other GSIS members and their beneficiaries.

—SOLOMAN MARIVELES,
Iapvk19@yahoo.com

Erratum

The first 5 sentences of the third paragraph of Apolonio G. Reniva' letter in the May 17 issue of the Inquirer should have read, "Not only should these forces be complemented by the services of ..., not "complimented." The error is ours in the editing. Our regrets. —Ed.

Across the NATION

Suspects tagged in attack on radio man

Soldiers seen near radio station; teacher included in police probe of murder try

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE ZAMBOANGA Sibugay police yesterday said a teacher and at least three soldiers from the Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion were tagged as suspects in Wednesday's assassination attempt on Bang town broadcaster Harrison Mañalac.

Senior Supt. Roberto Cuaca, Zamboanga Sibugay police director, told the Inquirer that the three soldiers were seen near the office of radio station dxBE-FM, shortly before Mañalac was attacked.

He did not provide the names of the teacher and the soldiers.

Mañalac, who has been critical of the teacher for allegedly being a moonshiner, had just come out of the radio station in Poblacion Ibay around 7 p.m. Wednesday when shot by one of two gunmen.

He was hit in the nape and remained in critical condition at a local hospital.

Cuaca said the teacher has a son, who is assigned to the 53rd IB, and that the presence of soldiers near the station at the time Mañalac was attacked was already suspicious.

He said the Zamboanga Sibugay police office was closely working with the military in a bid to solve the assassination attempt on Mañalac.

He said the corresponding officer of the 102nd Army Brigade, Col. Alexander Dicang, "gave full assurance to support the investigation."

Lt. Estefani Cacho, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said the military has not received any report from Dicang yet on the supposed involvement of soldiers from the 53rd IB in the Mañalac attack.

In Catabato City, Bishop Jesse Mercado vowed to help in the arrest and prosecution of soldiers involved in the Mañalac attack and similar assaults on members of the media.

But he said there should be enough evidence to pin down any of the suspects. Jaclie E. Alipala with a report from Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

Hopes raised town struck by 'Emong' to rise again

By Gabriel Cardenas
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SCENE of destruction in Bolinao, Pangasinan. Civic leaders cling to hope the town will recover no matter how slow the process takes. NEIL ZARATE

BOLINAO, PANGASINAN—LIKE a land devoid of people, images of her townmates who lost their homes when Typhoon "Emong" struck this town early this month keep haunting Margaret Celeste.

Celeste, an environmental activist, says she feels helpless and numb only cry.

"What if it rains? What will happen to them, especially the children? How will they rebuild their houses?" the questions keep her restless.

It has been two weeks now since Emong pummeled this town, but, except for main roads that have been cleared of debris, the scene runs the same as on the morning after the typhoon.

Many houses are roofless and in a state of disrepair. Most fish pens and cages on shoreline are gone. Uprooted trees and toppled electric posts still block roads.

Many families are still mourning the loss of their loved ones. At least 23 people, mostly operators of fish pens and cages, died and a few others remain missing.

"In sights, in my bed, I cry for my room. I cry for the people I met and I can't do anything," Celeste says.

Distribute relief goods and food donations, with the help of friends and volunteers, are the ones she could do.

"The pictures show [the scenes of devastation] but the personal accounts of the victims will make you more emotional like me," she says.

Celeste says the municipal government, led by her brother, Mayor Alfonso Celeste, "has been working nonstop until midnight to bring the town back to its feet."

"I pity my brother because the problem is too much to handle," she says. "He is also attending to the hundreds of victims who come to ask him for assistances in all forms."

But what worries her most, she says, are people in seaside houses.

"I'm crying every day don't mean I'm because it's hard to imagine how those people will live without a roof to settle into their roofs," Celeste says.

She says she is also worried about the children because almost all schools in the town have been destroyed.

"Some of those who can afford have considered their children to schools in Manaoag City to study but what about the poor?" she asks.

What keeps her from losing hope is the cooperating of help from various people and individuals.

Bolinao natives abroad have set up a page in the Pangasinan Online website (www.pangasinan.org) for donations. At least ₱4,000 has been raised so far.

Celeste says it may take more than a year for her town to recover from the devastation.

"But we always hope and pray that soon our lives will be back to normal," she says. "We will see Bolinao... rise again."

Makati mayor ships 1,500 GI sheets to Pangasinan

MAKATI CITY MAYOR JEJOMAR Binay on Thursday shipped 1,500 pieces of galvanized iron sheets to western Pangasinan town which suffered devastation as a result of Typhoon "Emong."

The GI sheets were intended for typhoon victims who are now rebuilding their houses blown down by the typhoon on May 7.

Some 300 GI sheets were distributed on Thursday in Alaminos City while 300 pieces were given to the inland town of Anda.

On Friday, 200 pieces of GI sheets were distributed in Bani town, and 200 pieces each were given to Bolinao and Agno towns.

The mayor of Binay-ridden municipality (annual income: ₱40 million-₱50 million), the typhoon destroyed 8,710 houses and damaged 2,596 others.

Emong pummeled western Pangasinan last week, blowing away roofs and toppling trees and electric posts. More than half of the province was plunged into darkness.

Bolinao town, which was in the direct path of the typhoon, had 23 fatalities, more than half of the total number of deaths recorded. Gabriel Cardenas, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Bohol police chief opposes STL entry

By Riz Bagsipo
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—BOHOL'S top police officer opposed the entry of small town lottery (STL) to the province, saying it will only promote, not stop, illegal numbers games.

"I don't honestly believe STL will help eliminate the existing illegal numbers game such as 'swertres,'" said Senior Supt. Eduardo Inting, Bohol police chief. "Instead, this will only worsen illegal gambling."

Inting said he has submitted a position paper to the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) expressing opposition to the entry of STL here.

He said illegal gambling financiers and operators would only exploit the legalized STL and use this as a cover for an illegal venture.

He said in Bohol, at least 25 financiers operate the illegal numbers game called 'swertres.'

Winning numbers in swertres were once dictated by results of jai-alai, but with jai-alai gone, swertres was transformed into the Manipur version of jueteng, which bases its winning numbers on clandestine lottery draws.

On May 13, police arrested Barangay Cayolan Mandu Odiar os of Barangay Manoon, Tagbilaran City.

Bitaro was caught in possession of illegal gambling paraphernalia and ₱934,860 in cash believed to be bets on swertres.

Police said Bitaro was a "big fish" in illegal gambling in the city.

"We cannot succeed [against] those gambling financiers if... STL outlets are allowed to operate...," Inting said.

But town mayors in the province remain divided over whether to allow STL to operate in their towns.

Several mayors have already declared their support for STL, citing its benefits to local government units (LGUs) which are entitled to shares in STL income.

Of total STL revenues, 55 percent are supposed to be for prizes, 30 percent for charity and 15 percent for operations.

Of the 30 percent for charity, 10 percent is for the LGU in the area where STL operates, 5 percent for the province and 5 percent for the congressional district.

DepEd appeals to LGUs: Hire more teachers

By Joey A. Gabinda
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—THE DEpartment of Education (DepEd) appealed anew to local government units to hire new teachers to fill up vacancies in 700 teachers in Eastern Visayas.

Sol Hidrosollo, DepEd Eastern Visayas director, said the department would not have enough teachers for lack of funds.

This school year, the region needs at least 383 new teachers for elementary and 333 teachers for high school.

Hidrosollo said the DepEd central office has committed to provide 165 new teaching slots to elementary and secondary level but 174 for high school.

Aside from asking help from the DepEd central office, Hidrosollo issued an appeal to local government units to keep on hiring new teachers to help the department fill the gap on the number of teachers in the region.

In Tacloban, the city government has been hiring teachers as a way of helping the DepEd, said Bernardita Valenzuela, executive assistant of Mayor Alfredo Romualdez.

"We are aware that we need additional teachers," Valenzuela said.

The hiring of teachers by the city government has been reserved during the administration of former Mayor Alfredo "Jaja" Romualdez and was continued by his son, Alfred.

Since the program started in 2001, more than 100 teachers were hired under the program, according to Mar Warriquez, personnel chief of the city division office.

This school year, the city government will hire 62 new teachers. One of this number, 27 would be for elementary and 14 would be for high school.

Tacloban has 24 elementary schools and 14 high schools.

However, locally hired teachers receive smaller salaries compared to those hired by the DepEd.

"While they receive less compared to those hired by the DepEd, at least they gain teaching experiences, which they can use once they apply and's the department," Mayor pagot said.

CHAMS are piled outside a public high school during a campaign to tap volunteers to refurbish and clean schools in time for opening of classes next month. MARY JANE

Order to seize Davao containers decried

By Tina G. Santos

AN ISRAELI SHIPPING FIRM ORED HA- rassment following a court order to seize 200 of its containers in Davao City as a result of a case filed by its former partners.

ZIM Israel Navigation Co. Ltd. and Israeli nationals Danny Hoffman and Yossi Rahmali, through their lawyer Telesforo del Rosario, said summons were never served to them or the seizure of the containers in Davao and those in Manila worth ₱74.5 million.

The pieces of property were levied in the re- quest of local fruit Dreamea Freighters Shipping Inc. (DFSI), ZIM's former partner that had its agency agreement terminated by ZIM.

ZIM and its officers asked the Manila regional trial court to remit the May 5, 2009 order to seize the Davao and Manila containers.

Citing lack of jurisdiction, ZIM also appealed to Judge Ma. Theresa Dolores Gomez-Estoesta of the Manila regional trial court Branch 7, to dismiss the complaint for damages filed by DFSI.

DFSI and ZIM entered into an agency agreement in 1978 appointing DFSI as ZIM's agent. ZIM, however, terminated the agency agreement with DFSI allegedly because of failure to protect the fresh fruit's interest.

ZIM said its officers and the Manila court has no jurisdiction over the case because the agency agreement requires ZIM and DFSI to arbitrate any dispute.

ZIM also alleged that the filing of the complaint violates rules on forum shopping since DFSI filed the case despite a separate civil case pending in another court.

INQUIRER Visayas

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CALATAGAN POT

The mystery of the ancient inscription

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Tabaibon City

AFTER 50 YEARS OF ENIGMA, THE TEXT inscribed around the shoulder of the Calatagan Pot, the country's oldest cultural artifact with pre-Hispanic writing, may have been deciphered as written in the old Bisayan language.

Diggers discovered the pot in an archeological site in Calatagan, Batangas, in 1958. They sold it for P5 to a certain Alfredo Evangelista.

Later, the Anthropological Foundation of the Philippines purchased the find and donated it in 1961 to the National Museum, where it is displayed to this day.

The pot, measuring 12 centimeters high and 20.2 cm in its widest and swelling 872 grams, is considered one of the Philippines' most valuable cultural and archeological artifacts. It has been dated back to the 14th and 16th centuries.

The inscription puzzle

Sometime in the early 1960s, the National Museum sought help from sculptor Guillermo Tolentino, the National Artist who produced the University of the Philippines (UP) Oblation, in deciphering the inscription on the pot. He was known for his fascination with the ancient Tagalog "baybayin" (alphabet).

However, Tolentino's output was set aside on scientific grounds. It was allegedly achieved through séances—he supposedly consulted the spirit of the ancient pot maker and asked him for the meaning of the inscription.

According to Tolentino's translation, the pot was an offering of a son or daughter to a dead mother.

Through the decades, other scholars had tried to decipher the inscription, drawing clues from Juan Francisco, Juan Paul Perez, Antoon Postma, Harold Conklin and Johannes de Casparis, known experts in the field of paleography.

But no one was able to produce a transliteration, whether complete or partial.

Only Francisco (in 1970) and Perez (in 1982) had come up with moves at less complete syllabi (alphabets). But they failed to determine the actual language.

Previous attempts at translation faced three seemingly insurmountable problems:

- Significations of many symbols are unknown.
- Language used is unknown, although the possibility of Tagalog or Hiligaynon had been proposed.
- Even if the symbols are successfully identified, it is difficult to determine the start and end of words, as well as the final consonants of certain words.

Recent attempts

Early this year, Prof. Ramon G. Guillermo of UP Diliman published results of his attempt in a paper titled "Isa Pliso Kara: An Experimental Decipherment of the Calatagan Pot Inscription," which has been posted in the Internet.

He said he used paleography, epigraphy and "brute force" to crack the code and decipher the symbols around the mouth of the pot. He approached his task by transcribing in clockwise direction starting from the character at the break of the circle of symbols, similar to what Francisco and Perez had done.

In March, Guillermo released the following translation of the text:

Dinilaga sakitkit si ina./
Para sa ipa-tuloy-buong-anak./
Kinamin ko sa aking dalang./
Sakitkit ko ang mahirap./
Ang-ay ng kalabaw./
Tuloy ng kalabak.

His version carries a mother's endearing message to her beloved child, the opposite of Tolentino's interpretation.

But although the methods that Guillermo used were deemed scientific and technical enough in academic circles, and his output was declared "most definitive" in an Internet timeline story, some curious have lingering doubts about the final translation. Those doubts prodded me to contribute my effort to resolve the issue.

Nahuka na ba?

I first came across the Calatagan Pot mystery and Tolentino's contribution from the bayanan website of textbook E-Counselor on April 27, 2007. But I knew the details only lately while browsing online for articles on the old Philippine scripts.

I adopted the "ina" and "tapa" for two similar symbols at the end of the third line from Tolentino, and "ya" at the end the fourth line from Perez; these are not found in existing scripts. After adding presumed missing vowels or consonants for some possible Bisayan keywords, I came up with the following interpretation:

Hinhod na ba?/
Lahil ina ay-ay, hinhi;/
Hina ma-apya nangga./
Hakubkub kiya hi ngay-an./
Heyd-ha dakit ay, ina?/
Da-hinhig hinagat, ha?

The single-syllable expressions in the text are decidedly Bisayan in tone and accent, the type that can still be heard from residents in the hinterlands of Samar Island.

While translating my interpretation in English, I found that the modern meanings of such keywords as "late," "sina," "lasked," "dato" and "hagat" are not appropriate. So I looked for their old meanings, mainly from the Vocabulario de la Lengua Bisaya (Dagami, Leyte 1614; Manila 1711) by Fr. Marco Sanchez, SJ.

Here is my translation:

Is it open now (or sore)? (the gateway to the spirit underworld)/
Take it as a gem already, dalit (Thg., hinhi)/Ewe!/
Your (the womb) orphaned you for a mango tree/
(If) just crossed out of fear (to your parents) alone, is that so?/
Leave the datu's son (who will wed you)!/
(Kumin/Sitting [Stuck]) the soul that you (were told to) accurse, okay?

I have already compiled a glossary of the 23 words possibly used in the pot inscription.

It now appears that the Calatagan artifact was a ritual pot particularly used as native incense burner for the expensive and elaborate "pag-ali" (ritual) ceremony of the pre-Hispanic Filipinos. This was presumably performed in front of a "dakit" (a Cebuano, "dakit" in Leyte-Samar), a tree held sacred by the natives, to retrieve a soul believed to have just ornamented over to the other realm, and to return this to its murdered earthly body.

The inscription essentially provides the outline of a three-stage mythologic, personality elaborated by a "babaylan" (native priestess) in a ritual during the "pag-ali" ritual. It is alternately addressed to the spirit underworld or the otherhand and to the "ornalaged," environment spirit that the "babaylan" had communicated for the said ceremonial operation, on the other.

This pot was probably also used for communion to retrieve victims of the "baglat," disappeared persons believed to have been abducted by fairies who dwell in the "dakit."

A technical paper with details of the findings is being prepared for presentation to the academic and scientific community.

THE CALATAGAN pot from the Archaeology Collection of the National Museum of the Philippines in the Museum of the Filipino People building.

Ilonggo artist explores racism, spirituality

By Hazel P. Nita
Iloilo City

"WE JUDGE PEOPLE BY THE COLOR OF their skin and that alone causes much of the world's problems. One then thinks what life would be like if people were internally and spiritually naked."

Such is the charge of perception of former yogi monk and social realist Bonggo artist, Cedjo Darilan, that he has charged his name to Hobo (Hiligaynon word for "naked").

Having seen much of the sufferings of the poverty-stricken manner of fate as an itinerant Amorsolo Marga monk, Hobo has translated his insights into canvases with strong social realist leanings.

His strong images bordering on the gruesome and the abstract but with a child-like innocence to them made him a celebrity in the prestigious Philippine Art Awards in 1999 and 2008.

So passionate was Hobo in capturing the various images of poverty and its senseless mindset that is permeated even his photographs, some of which were in contests placing mighty competitions.

This melding of art, glowing reality and social realism went on for several decades until Hobo realized that he was more in his element if he concentrated on artworks that emphasized meditation and inner calm, a daily part of his life.

The epiphany has resulted in paintings of the human body, internal organs all visible and surrounded with lotus flowers and coiled with his almost other trademark—a fat coy from his previous social realist paintings.

The change of perspective is so particularly meaningful for Hobo that he has set out to open his first solo exhibit from May 21-30 titled "Inner Beauty" at Big and Small Art Gallery of SM Megamall Bldg. A in Mandaluyong City.

His paintings draw in the essence of the spiritual. Hobo explains that a person's skin color is superficial and that the truth is found inside a person, both taken literally and figuratively.

Thus, most of his paintings have the heart as a significant subject.

"A person actually sees, listens and talks with the heart," says Hobo.

THE PAINTINGS of Hobo have the human body and heart as its focus.

HUBO opens his first solo exhibit on May 21-30 at SM Megamall Bldg A in Mandaluyong City.

He further explains the lotus flowers as representations of purity and the snow as symbols of happiness, and these are all connected to dissidence as a priority of pope penetrations.

Though his current paintings are a big diversion from his social-realist days, the Ilonggo artist assures not help but incorporate some elements from social realism such as one painting where a real crown of thorns is placed on the head of the nude, and to return this to its manifested earthly body.

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NEWSBRIEFS

■ CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

NPA burns nursery

THE Dominga Eslava Command of the New People's Army in Aurora has claimed responsibility for the burning of 10,000 coconut seedlings and several cottages at the Aurora Provincial Coconut Development Center (APCDC) in Dilasag on Thursday night.

In a statement sent to the Inquirer on Friday, the NPA said the burning was an "expression of anger and protest of the people against the construction of the second Aurel plantation because of the absence of public consultation and displacement of residents."

The demand of the people was to make that area an extension of the Dinalungan town's proper, the command said in Filipino.

Marcelino Dalangcan, chief security officer of APCDC, said 60 fully armed rebels believed that the fire also burned the one-hectare government coconut nursery at Sitio Talay in Barangay Dibacbay at 8:30 p.m. They withdrew to the mountainous portion of the village after burning the seedlings and cottages. Dinalungan is outside the capital town of Baler. **Danilo Dupa, Inquirer Central Luzon**

■ ILIGAN CITY

Trader hurt in robbery

A BUSINESSMAN was wounded when he traded shots with three armed men, who tried to rob him inside his house in Mahayag, Zamboanga Sur on Monday morning.

One of the robbers was also wounded during the gunfight.

Jody de la Vega, a resident of Sitio Sto. Niño in Poblacion Mahayag, said he was inside his house when the gunmen arrived onboard a motorcycle around 7:15 a.m.

He said they immediately pointed handguns at him while declaring a holdup.

De la Vega said he quickly drew his pistol and fired at the suspects, hitting one of them.

He said the gunmen fired back, hitting him in the shoulder before fleeing.

De la Vega said relatives rushed him to a hospital for treatment.

The Mahayag police said it was still tracking down the gunmen. **Elsie E. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao**

Party switching

SOME local politicians here have switched party allegiance as the 2010 elections draw near.

Among those who changed parties from the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) to Lakas-Kampi were Davao del Sur governor and board member Hagilan Bautista, Martin Bello, Alberto Galorio and Ricardo Molina.

Vice Gov. Ismaelito Lasaga, another NPC stalwart, resigned from the party over the issue of equity of the incumbency.

He said in several party meetings he attended, his name was never considered for the party's provincial tickets for 2010. **Edith S. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao**

■ DAVAO CITY

Lack of consultation hit

THE DITI government has criticized the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for building projects without consulting officials.

Wendel Avisado, city administrator, said under the Local Government Code, local officials should be consulted before projects are implemented in their areas.

"Without coordination, some projects could duplicate and would distort the priority projects of the city government and their corresponding budgets," he said.

In the cases of the road projects being rushed here, which are being funded from a lawmaker's pork barrel, Avisado said the DPWH did not bother sending any notice to the city government. **Jody Gabieta, Inquirer Mindanao**

■ COTABATO CITY

ARMM gets WB nod

AMID public perception of rice subsidies, the World Bank gave the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) a satisfactory rating for project implementation from 2005 to date.

In its 12th review mission recently held in the five provinces ARMM, WB chief of mission Bong Kong said the ARMM also fared well in the implementation of projects for livelihood, education and health. **Danilo E. Sabbac, Inquirer Mindanao**

13TH VISIT IN PAMPANGA

GMA quotes saint: 'Nothing is impossible'

CIDA, EDEN, DIMINGOLA—NOTHING is impossible.

That lifelong tenet by St. Rita of Cascia became President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's rallying cry in rural kicks here on Friday as she tried to spread optimism while her administration battles the local impact of two global problems: Recession and climate change.

Speaking to some 2,000 residents here, Ms Arroyo—dressed in dark pants, white blouse and yellow jacket—said the nation's country, telling them in Kapampangan: "I can come to hope for your support and help. It is said there is nothing impossible, which is the theme of this feast. Nothing is impossible as we provide solutions to the challenges facing our world, our country, Pampanga and Mt. Pinatubo."

Ms Arroyo's visit here marks her 13th in the province and 30th in her home district since Feb. 24. A Mexican devotee, she came on the feast day of the saint whose body has not shown progressive decay in over a century. Aping Obama in how local folks call their patron.

"Pacheck time to her pronouncements," one here deputy presidential spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo called the President's frequent forays in the province.

The visits should not be seen as part of early campaigning as, Fajardo because, in the first place, Ms Arroyo has not seated that she is going to run for a seat Congress in 2010, Fajardo said.

Critics of Ms Arroyo accused her and her allies of planning to keep her in power by a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

In her speech, Ms Arroyo said easing the impact of global recession is a top priority in her administration. "We have we learned how is that economies should have sound taxation and banking policies, which we have.... We are developing more markets in China and Middle East and reducing reliance on our economies with the US."

She said her administration has been developing new industries like having more call centers in Clark and promoting tourism.

"So we do business in the world economy, we need to strengthen our self-reliance. Our responses include paving up more infrastructures like the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and the Honda-Macapagal International Airport, and strengthening our agriculture," she said.

She talked about climate change, saying this could be minimized through effective solid waste management, mainly through waste reduction and recycling. Reuters-Inquirer reports from **Charlene Cigaletyah, Inquirer Central Luzon**

TRAGEDY
A local home is parlor in Floridablanca, Cotopaxi in Valley province can out of coffins and had to build more in those who died in a landslide in a mining area nearby that killed more than 10 people.

Debate rages on founding of Pangasinan

By Gabriel Cardenas
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—When was Pangasinan founded as a province? To date, no one knows.

But a group of local history buffs has proposed three dates that the people may celebrate as Pangasinan Day—June 11, July 22 and Feb. 16.

The group, composed of historians Ibrahim Reza and Antonio Arcinas, history teachers Melanio Malderon and Emma Wala and provincial librarian Evangeline Paragas, was formed to research on the proper date/foundation day.

Board Member Alfonso Rivas has proposed two ordinances seeking to declare Dec. 11, 1611, as the official Pangasinan Foundation day and declaring July 22 every year as official provincial holiday following the group's findings.

"It's high time that we should already be liberating these two historical dates," Rivas said.

In its report, the group said that on Dec. 11, 1611, delegates from Pangasinan were to attend an occasion in China, were given an audience, suggesting that Pangasinan already existed then as a province.

The group said that on July 22, 1898, Pangasinenses liberated themselves from Spanish rule by delivering the Spaniards to Dagupan City.

When Emilio Aguinaldo became president of the First Philippine Republic, an assembly of prominent Pangasinenses petitioned him to declare July 22 the provincial holiday in Pangasinan, but this request never happened because Aguinaldo was captured and the First Republic was dissolved, the group said.

In supporting Feb. 16, the group cited historians Teodoro Agoncillo-Cortes' book that said on that day in 1901, American civil commission head William Howard Taft called a general assembly in Dagupan to officially establish Pangasinan as a province.

School execs robbed of ₱1M in teachers' bonuses

LUCENA CITY—THREE PUBLIC school officials in Mauban, Quezon lost more than ₱1 million in bonuses for teachers to armed robbers in Tayabas City on Thursday, police said yesterday.

SPO3 Orlando Gevero, Tayabas police station desk officer, said the victims Josefina Empuso, supervisor of Mauban South Elementary School; Lenore Ichiban, principal of Bagong Bayan Elementary School; and Hazel Bersan, principal of Dalo Elementary School, appeared at the station and reported the armed robbery.

Police quoted them as saying they were robbed while aboard a van passing through the village of Ibaba, Tayabas on their way home to Mauban.

Chief Insp. Allen Rae Co, Tayabas police chief, said investigators and the van's driver, William Arabal, a one of the suspects, an accomplice of the armed men.

"We've already filed a robbery case against the driver and three other unidentified men," said Co.

The driver is now locked up at the Tayabas town jail.

The victims were on their way to remain thanks for the midyear bonuses of their teachers from the Department of Education office in Barangay Talipan in Pagbilao town.

On their way to a break in Lucena City, they said a van owned by the Mauban local government.

As they were on the Tayabas-Mauban Highway at about 1 p.m., the armed men in a blue motorcycle without license plate appeared and fired warning shots to stop the van.

The driver, police said, ignored the gunmen' plea for him not to stop.

One of the armed men asked about the money then was withdrawn by the teachers, indicating that "the suspects knew what they were after," said Co.

He said the teachers were suspicious, too, of the driver. **Jeffie T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon**

GMA ally sees win of 'machinery' again in 2010

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

DAGUPAN CITY—LEYTE 3RD Reelected Bienito Remandaño, one of the closest allies of President Macapagal Arroyo, said ex-President Joseph Estrada is a formidable opponent of the administration in case he's allowed to run for president next year.

Remandaño, reigned chairman Eastern Visayas of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), however, expressed confidence that the administration would win in a crowded race, which was likely to happen.

"Everyday counting to be very popular and popularity (gives him) their advantage. But popularity and winability does not necessarily go hand in hand," Remandaño said on Friday.

Remandaño said Estrada, convicted of plunder but pardoned by Ms Arroyo, has to face first possible legal questions on his plea to run.

The Constitution bars the reelection of the president, which is being challenged by Estrada who said he was eligible to run as his term was cut short.

Remnde was ousted from office two years into his term in 2001 in a people power revolution (Edsa II) after he was linked to the jueteng payola scandal.

Remandaño said that with a crowded presidential race, the candidate of the administration would be a sure winner.

"In any race, the more candidates getting the majority or plurality of the votes became difficult to accomplish. But in whatever is in whose candidate any of the administration comes into play," Remandaño said.

The administration will always be at an advantage, he added.

Estrada had already announced his intention to run again in next year's presidential elections.

SUPPORTERS surround Estrada during his visit in Legazpi City

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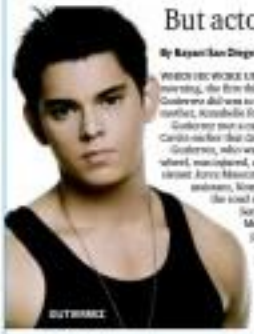
Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lhuillier

Richard fine, says sorry to ma

But actor's assistant dies in Cavite road mishap



By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHEN HE WOKE UP YESTERDAY morning, the first thing actor Richard Gutierrez did was to apologize to his mother, Annabelle Rama.

Gutierrez met actor Antolent to Cavite earlier that day.

Gutierrez, who was behind the wheel, was injured, along with his assistant Jerry Mascon. But his other assistant, Nomar Pardo, died in the road mishap.

Senior Supt. Jonathan Muero, Cavite police provincial director, said Gutierrez and his two companions were traveling the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road in Barangay Patog, Rosario in Silang, Cavite, at around 1:30 a.m. when they accidentally hit an elevated post.

Supt. Danilo Borreliyo, Silang police chief, said that part of the road was covered and dark.

"They probably just did not see it (the electrical post)," he said.

In a phone interview, Rama, who was keeping vigil in her son's room in Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa, told the Inquirer that Gutierrez said sorry to her.

"I told Richard to bring a driver with him to Cavite," Rama said. "I know he was tired from all his shoo his commitments, but he insisted on driving the car himself."

Gutierrez had just finished taping for his nightly action series "Zorro" and shot a commercial for a hardcourt leg-wrap opera near Cavite.

Rama said her son is fine and was wearing at the time of the interview.

"It wound above his eyebrow on his forehead, was stitched and there were glass shards on his face, but he is okay," she said. "His face wasn't damaged at all."

She said Gutierrez is going to go back to work. "But I told him, he needs to rest first."

She said that tomorrow could check out of the hospital after a day. "He just needs to undergo a few tests."

Suddenly speaking in a hushed tone, Rama said that Gutierrez was still unaware of the death of Pardo.

"He kept asking me about Nomar. He told me to visit Nomar in a Cavite hospital. I haven't told him about Nomar's death yet. I don't want him to worry. Maybe, I'll tell him later when he wakes up," she noted.

She said Pardo's family was already informed of the bad news. With a report by Aluricar Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

TV, Internet out; 'tumbang preso,' 'patintero' in

By DJ Yap

MOVES ARE AFOOT TO REINTRODUCE Filipino kids to the joys of spending time outdoors and playing traditional games like "piko," "tumbang preso," and "patintero."

Officials of Marikina City and Anak TV, an organization promoting child-friendly programming, has launched "Larulympics," an intercity and regional tournament featuring indigenous children's games in a bid to move their attention away from too much TV and Internet.

"These days, children are always watching TV or surfing the Internet, so we have to find ways to make them engage in physical activity," Mayor Marides Fernando said at the launch of the project Friday at the Freedom Park in front of City Hall.

"With the proliferation of electronic media, Filipino childhood games of yesteryears like patintero, piko and tum-

TUESDAY, 26

Water service cut in west Metro zone set

By Rea T. Cabuenas

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES INC. HAS FIXED BACK ITS WATER service interruption in the Western Zone of Metro Manila.

In an advisory, the company controlled by Metro Pacific Investments Corporation and JGSHI Holdings Inc. said the interruption will start on May 26 at 10 p.m. and end on May 27 at 2 p.m.

The original schedule was 10 p.m. yesterday until 2 p.m. today.

On those dates, Maynilad will insert a 600 millimeter (mm) Butterfly Valve on the existing 600-inch main line along MIA Road (formerly Dolor) corner Coastal Road, Parañaque City.

They will also replace an existing 500mm interconnection valve along Quirino Avenue corner MIA Road.

The work will result in a temporary water service interruption in Las Piñas and parts of Pasay City (Brgy. Pildera), Bgy. Malibay, Bgy. Tildera, and Bgy. Barrio).

In Parañaque, among the affected areas are Brgy. Baclaran, Bgy. Tambo, Bgy. Tonsuya, Bgy. Bio, Niño, Bgy. La Huerta, Bgy. San Dionisio, Merong Road, Jose Abad Santos, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Tejeros, Villanueva, Multinational, Green Court, Cimarron, Redondo, Industrial Estate, Cimarron Village, Villa Lourdes, Valley 2, 12, 13, 14 & 15, Fortunato Village, Dela Cruz Compound and Cruz Compound.

The provisional Centro will be allotted as well with all of Kaunlaran and Cirelle City to have service interruption.

There will also be service interruptions in parts of Imus and Bacoor, Cavite.

Street lights installed in Tondo

By Alfonso IV. Lopez

MONOBLOCK TONDO 18 Monday night turn up as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) finish the ornamental lighting of newly installed street lamps on two of its main roads.

MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said the streetlight project along Mabini and Jones Bridge, Mabini and Rizal, and other roads is one of the agency's efforts to transform Tondo from one of the country's most blighted districts to a more progressive community.

Aside from the MMDA, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim is expected to join the new-installed lighting scheduled Friday night.

"We will make Tondo another Marikina," Fernando said.

A blot on the Supreme Court

ON TARGET

HANNAH TORRES

CHIEF JUSTICE REYNATO Puno's call for a change of mind values in government should indeed start in his own backyard, the judiciary.

The election protest of Angelo to Sen" Reyes against Tagaig Provincial Rep. Henry "Sen" Dumon was dropped by the Supreme Court while the recounting of votes is ongoing.

The House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) had tallied 23 percent of the total ballot boxes and Reyes had cut down Dumon's lead from 1,457 to 532 votes.

With 75 percent of the ballot boxes still to be opened, Dumon went to the high court to stop the recount.

Dumon is an alleged protégé of one of the high court justices, Jaime Tinga, who didn't inhibit himself.

The high tribunal issued a preliminary injunction order (PIJO) on the recount.

A Supreme Court insider told Tinga had a hand in the issuance of the TRO against a vote recount.

Now retired, he is reportedly running for mayor of Tagaig City.

An 18-year-old boy once another boy gambling debts amounting to P1.4 million, flash are residents of a peak village in Makati.

The parents of the leader are demanding payment from the boy-debtor's parents.

Why do the parents of the boy-leader tolerate their son's illegal gambling?

A government physician calls on the government to postpone the opening of classes for one month as a precaution against the spread of the A(H1N1) virus.

Dr. Jaime G. Dy, chair and president of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, said: "Preparedness is the best policy defense in combating A(H1N1) virus."

By said parents and school authorities should be made aware of the seriousness of the swine flu virus.

* * *

And now for the Kjhoys side:

Who is Hayden Kho?

He is the guy who has a politician's 'shonot' age (teenagers, his admirers insist). He spend it a few years (years) here, and rakes a din here.

Navotas gov't seeks help against theft, defacing of city signages

By Beverly T. Rodriguez

THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF Navotas is asking residents to report and not apprehend civilians who steal or deface public signages in the city.

In a statement issued yesterday Navotas Mayor John Tiangco said residents may report any violation by calling the city's new public 24-hour hotline and text service.

Residents may call (02) 4274 and 2910207 or use the text. Mayor John program by typing TMT<space>Name<space>Barangay<space>Message and sending it to 09165992358 (Globe), 09189778113 (Smart), 09220907270 (Sun).

"Signages and other traffic equipment are installed by the government to promote order and ensure safe and convenient movement of persons and goods within the city. I call on all my kababayans to please report any violations of this ordinance," Tiangco said.

Tiangco said they are now receiving several reports from the City Traffic and Parking Management Office (CTPMO) that several signages, traffic railings, and other traffic equipments are either removed or destroyed in their city streets.

Moreover, the public signages along C-4 Road alone have gone missing.

Tiangco said they are set to put up cash traffic signs before the end of the month in time for the opening of classes on June 3. But he expressed worry the new signs would also be removed or defaced.

He reminded residents that any person caught defacing, removing, and/or stealing traffic signages, railings, and other traffic equipment installed along major thoroughfares in Navotas can be cited under Ordinance No. 2006-04.

The ordinance applies to all kinds of traffic signs and equipment installed by government agencies like the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the city government.

Under the city ordinance, each violation can be slapped with a P2,000 fine.

The violator is also compelled by law to reinstall the removed or destroyed sign or traffic railing and if the violator refuses or fails to do so, the city will restore the sign at the expense of the violator.

They should have learned to drive first

By Nancy Carvajal

TWO 6-MV-6MO a 15-YEAR-OLD boy tried to steal a taxi the other day but failed.

Instead, three of them became taxi drivers and were subsequently arrested by responding policemen.

Police said the taxi driver, Bernardo Teves, fought police help after he escaped from the suspects who were trying to figure out how to start the cab.

The suspects, police said, held up Teves at around 5 a.m. Thursday in Barangay Bantayan, Quezon City.

Recovered from the suspects were a bladed weapon and the taxi driver's belt-satchel, including cash worth P1,900, his driver's license and other identification cards.

MetroBriefs

Legard's ex-staff freed on bail

The former employee of Gen. Lovell Legarda, who allegedly duped at least 18 people in connection a pyramid business scam, was released from police custody yesterday after posting bail. Chief Insp. Allan Arasing, District Intelligence Operating Unit chief, said they released Jocelyn Florido (a facsimile), 30, of Cavite City in Legarda's case after she posted bail of P120,000 lawyers." She was released around 3:30 p.m. from Southern Police District's headquarters where she was detained for a day. Florido's arrest occurred at the Mall of Asia on Wednesday. Police said Facebook took at least P20 million from those complainants who have thought they actually sold it on their investment in Facebook's prepaid cell phone card business.

Nina Calimbas Calayo

Theft rap vs actress' ex-BF

The Quezon City prosecutor's office has recommended the filing of charges against a former local head of ad-sea Killat after the ex-assistant allegedly stole jewelry from her in 2006. In a two-page resolution, assistant city prosecutor Antonio Tagaban has recommended charges against Lumawan with qualified theft as Lumawan did not attend the preliminary investigation. "Clearly, respondent, with abuse of confidence, took several pieces of jewelry and stones of the complainant without the latter's consent... intent is presumed that the taking was done with intent to gain," part of the resolution read. The charges stemmed from a complaint filed by actress Killat, or Soraya Rita Bianca in real life, in 2006 after Bianca suspected that one scanned to her jewelry. Bianca is a friend of the MEL-CBN Network Inc. and claimed having known Lumawan for six years. Tagaban recommended no bail for the charges against Lumawan.

Jude M. Acosta

Sleeping teenager shot dead

A teenager was shot dead while he was sleeping on a wooden bench in front of his house yesterday before dawn in Tondo, Manila. Jonathan Torres, 19, of 120 Interior Road corner M. Dela Fuente Street died on the spot, investigators pieced that at around 4:00 a.m., two unidentified men approached and shot the victim using a cumulus (improvised shot gun) on the head. The suspects fled leaving the victim bleeding to death.

Gaudencio B. Reyes Jr.

Free dental, medical services

The UE Alumni Association, Inc. (UAAI) will provide free dental and medical services to indigent students of the University of the East (UE) in Manila and Caloocan through its 2009 Summer Outreach Program to be held today from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the UE Manila. The services include dental health education, tooth extraction, oral prophylaxis, medical checkup and "Operation Tuli." UAAI president Mercy Candelaria said the services will cover Barangays 401 and 402, Zone 41, San Miguel, Sampaloc, and Barangay 649, Zone 71, District 1, Caloocan, and UE employees' children. The Pagoo and UniLab will provide the medical supplies.

TV, Internet out ...

Reading time 4:11

being grown are getting lost in oblivion," regardless of the percent read in a given discussed.

Amid TV and Filipino children growing the "highest index of TV exposure in the world."

"By the time a Filipino child reaches 10, he would have spent about 30,000 hours watching TV and only 17,000 attending school," the organization added.

More abuse

Atak TV president Roberto del Rosario, who also heads the International Broadcasting Corp., said Filipino children left by their parents or guardians in front of the TV do not grow just mentally but also fundamentally.

"They are becoming more and more obese, and they are getting strokes with diabetes, heart disease... There are adult diseases," he added.

Will Luzviminda... Del Rosario said they hope to help able Filipino children's interest in indigenous games and to encourage them to engage in physical activities.

He said the tournament shall be held in selected cities and towns around the country with their barangay or school winners competing in town-city and regional events in July.

At a demonstration of the games Felino Fernando herself participated in a friendly game of pike-using a queen "pato."

Under the concessionaire, there will be two divisions, the "children" division for those aged 7-13, and the "Teens" division for those aged 14-24.

The games will have some socially relevant variations. The time spent to computer will be matched with children's rights (as through they are protecting them), while the fee can send to rural/poor areas will boost donations of things, equipment and school (as though they were Ading them).

Child-safe media

At the launch, Fernando also declared Marikina City as a "city of child-safe media" outlining the city's efforts to promote the well-bee of children to encouraging households to make children watch only child-friendly programs and shun those which are not.

She said this city will involve mothers and parents in discuss activities for child protection, education and welfare, and develop "media and literacy education, information and awareness strategies" for such goals, among other tasks.

Fernando said the city will also try to curb "excessive media usage" among the young by promoting sports and games, arts and culture, and other social interaction programs.

CHILDREN in Marikina City play "tumbang preso" as the Freedom Park during the launch Friday of "Laruang-pinoy" as proud by the city government and Bonde TV. Limahagian, sama sa mga pinoy "Laruang-pinoy" ang mga sinaunang mga laro tulad ng tumbang preso, piko and patintero.

Guatemala president, wife accused of murder

GUATEMALA CITY—An 85-page 14 murder victims turn up in Guatemala every day, more than some stabbed, some bludgeoned, and only about 2 percent of the cases are ever solved. Even in the rare instances when a killer is uncovered, the suspect frequently turns out to be a hit man hired by some shadowy figure who is never identified and gets away to plot again.

But of the more than 1,500 killings so far broke this year, one murdered case has jolted this country like no other. The recent shooting death of Rodrigo Rosenberg, a prominent lawyer, has incited Guatemalans to pour into the streets by the hundreds of thousands.

The killing of Rosenberg, early in the morning on Monday, as he was headed home just one more case long list of mysterious murders—that is, if Rosenberg had not foreseen his killing and identified the people he believed were out to get him in a chilling video he prepared days before he died.

"My name is Rodrigo Rosenberg Marzano, and unfortunately, if you are watching the message, it is because I was assassinated by President Alvaro Colom," he said, going on to allege that the president's wife, Sandra Torres, his personal secretary, Gustavo Alpirez, and various business and business men.

In the video and a written statement, Rosenberg said the president and those accused are more involved in a corruption scandal tied to Guatemala's Financial Development Bank and had already killed one of his clients, businessman Khalil Musa, as well as Musa's daughter, Marjorie Musa, with whom Rosenberg was having a relationship. He called the bank "a den of robbers, drug traffickers and murderers."

Rosenberg offered no proof to back up his allegations, but the fact that he foretold his murder—after he was murdered on his way to his bicycle near his home—and that Musa and his child were killed months earlier with a bullet to the head by a second killer—has led to calls for the resignation of Colom, a leftist leader elected in 2007 on a platform of, among other things, reducing crime.

Colom has denied having had anything to do with the killings, as have his wife and others mentioned in the video. But the allegations have thrown Guatemala, which has never fully recovered from the civil war that lasted from 1960 to 1996, into a full-fledged political crisis. AFP

Blame-tossing over Indonesia plane crash

AIR FORCE investigators inspect the wreckage of a C-130 military cargo plane that crashed on Wednesday in East Java, Indonesia, killing at least 100 people.

JAKARTA—THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT came under attack on Friday over shortfalls in its defense budget which have been blamed for causing the crash of a Hercules transport plane that killed 101 people this week.

As the military assessed the loss of scores of soldiers, citizens and members of their families, including 12 children, on Wednesday's crash, politicians accused the government of recklessly failing to maintain basic defense spending.

"The government shouldn't view the validity of our national and economic definition lightly," parliamentary defense commission deputy head Tuwoz Pius Mboi said he was quoted as saying by news website Detikcom.

The government granted the military 30.6 trillion rupiah ($3.26 billion) for its 2009 budget, only around a quarter of the 127 trillion it requested, leaving it "very tolerant" meant for maintenance, he said.

The crash remains under investigation but Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono has reportedly complained that the military's budget is insufficient to ensure adequate standards of aircraft maintenance.

"Initially the announcement cost should be 20 to 25 percent of the overall military budget but at present it's below 10 percent," he told reporters ahead of a meeting with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in Medan today.

Witnesses said they heard thunder-like explosions before the plane plunged out of the sky as it prepared to land at a military air base in East Java with 112 passengers and crew on board. AFP

Diabetes drug could reduce risk of amputation

LONDON—DOCTORS WHO gave diabetics a drug originally intended to lower patients' cholesterol found it reduced their risk of so-called silent amputation by 30 percent, a new analysis of research says.

Researchers in Australia, Finland and the Netherlands studied almost 10,000 patients aged 50 to 75 with type 2 diabetes, the kind linked to obesity. About half of the patients were given fenofibrate, a drug available generically and sold in stores, Energlide, Lipidux and others. The other half got fake pills. After five years, 115 patients had or had suffered lower limb amputations because of diabetes.

Diabetes can damage nerves and blood vessels. In severe cases, this leads to amputation. About nine children patients in 10 lose part of a leg.

The study, first published in 2005, aimed to see if fenofibrate prevented heart disease. It didn't.

But in this new analysis, experts found patients on fenofibrate had a 30 percent lower risk of a first amputation than those on placebo.

Patients who lost part of their legs were more likely to have heart disease, smoking, skin ulcers or previous amputations. Amputations were labeled severe if they were below the ankle and major if they were above the ankle.

The risk of minor amputations in patients without huge vessel disease, the narrowing of blood vessels, was nearly 50 percent lower in the group taking fenofibrates. The risk of a major amputation was not significantly different between the two groups. Taller people were also more likely to suffer amputations.

The results were published on Friday in the medical journal Lancet. The study was paid for by laboratories Fournier SA, owner of Solvay Pharmaceuticals, which makes fenofibrate drugs, and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia.

After the study's first results, many doctors switched to statins to cut their patients' heart disease risks and dropped fenofibrates.

"Researchers may be overstating the point," said Sergio Fazio of Vanderbilt University Medical Center, who co-authored an accompanying commentary in the Lancet. "Fenofibrates can, and possibly take the place of statins, but they may exert a benefit over statins in diabetic treatment." AP

Elderly may have greater swine flu immunity

WASHINGTON—OLDER PEOPLE may have some kind of immunity to swine flu. US health officials said on Thursday as the number of confirmed and suspected cases of H1N1 virus rose again around the country.

A study by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that more than 64 percent of US residents with confirmed swine flu cases between the ages of five and 24, with just one percent of the victims aged 65 or older.

One possible explanation is that "older adults might have been in contact a long time ago with a virus related to the one that we are now," said Anne Schuchat, interim deputy director for science and public health programs at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Adults might have some degree of pre-existing ... antibodies to the H1N1 virus, especially older adults over 65 or 70," she added.

"The presence of pre-existing antibodies may be due to previous exposure to (influenza) infection or vaccination."

Health authorities around the world have been surprised that such high number of cases of swine flu now topping 11,000, with 85 deaths, many of those believed have been younger people.

The CDC's study suggests children and teens may be particularly vulnerable to contracting the disease, underscoring concern as officials brace for the possible return in a few months' time of a more virulent strain of the H1N1 virus.

Schuchat added that flu outbreaks will "be from over" in the United States, where the tally of confirmed or probable US cases is now 5,764.

"The virus continues to circulate in the US," Schuchat said, adding there have been "localized outbreaks" in various states.

US health officials also urgent caution instead of delays in beginning production of a vaccine that could prove effective against swine flu.

This is especially urgent since the current batch of seven flu vaccine does not provide protection against the H1N1 virus.

"The strain isolated that we'll have vaccine release to send to manufacturers by the end of May," the CDC official said.

But Schuchat added that there are "many steps involved, and it will still be several months before a vaccine against this new virus will be available."

Schuchat offered a range of upbeat news, noting that fluoxetine-based drugs such as Tamiflu were effective in the swine flu outbreak in Mexico. In what she considers a "good sign." AFP

Ex-US soldier spared death sentence for Iraq murders

PADUCAH, KENTUCKY—An ex-soldier convicted of raping and killing an Iraqi teen and murdering her family was spared the death penalty on Thursday after jurors couldn't agree on a punishment for the brutal crimes.

Steven Dale Green, 24, will instead receive a life sentence in a federal prison because of his "unredeemed and psychological criminal conduct evidenced during Iraq and Afghanistan."

In March 2006, after months of steroid abuse and drinking and playing war games, Green and three other soldiers went to the home of 14-year-old Abeer Qassim Al-Janabi near Mahmudiyah, about 30 kilometers south of Baghdad. Green shot and killed the teen's mother, father and sister, then forced the girl before shooting her in the face. Her body was then set on fire.

Federal jurors who convicted Green of rape and murder on May 7 told the judge they couldn't agree on the appropriate sentence after deliberating for more than 13 hours over two days. Their choices were a death sentence or life in prison without parole. Since they could not unanimously agree on either sentence, life in prison had to be the verdict.

"It's the feeling of two final choices," said his father, John Green, who sighed as the verdict was read.

Green's lawyers assert that his involvement in the attack, instead focusing on building a case that he didn't deserve the death penalty. Former Marines and other soldiers with whom Green served testified that he faced an unusually stressful combat tour in Iraq in a unit that suffered heavy casualties and didn't receive sufficient Army leadership while serving in the area labeled "Triangle of Death."

Jurors declined to comment as they were escorted out of the courthouse. A civilian jury decided Green's case because he was not out of the Army before he was charged.

According to the jury verdict form, several panelists said the death Green was under from combat and other areas of his life was a mitigating factor. Several jurors said being sentenced to death, have no money could clear. The Army factoring he was having homicidal thoughts yet still returning him to the field also influenced them.

Some witnesses for several jurors also included for bad home life, not being tried in a military court like five of the

GREEN

defendants and that he was traumatized by his separation during his attack. AP

Critics: Ireland slow to protect its children

BEATEN, THEN KILLED
Aliyaqwan police said on May 21 that Tiffany Tarbin, 11, the mother of Tyrone "Ty" Tarbin, the 2-year-old boy found buried at a playground, had been arrested on suspicion of killing him. Last month, she and her husband were charged with murder in the boy's death.

DUBLIN—CHILD-ABUSE ACTIVISTS have warned that Ireland failed to learn the lessons from decades of unchecked brutality inside Catholic Church-run schools and still offers poor protection to vulnerable boys and girls.

This week's nineteenth report into the abuse of thousands of children in Catholic-run schools blamed successive Irish governments for permitting rape and other sadistic practices inside the tax-funded facilities that caught out most of the 20th century.

The authors of the nine-year investigation offered a long list of recommendations to toughen and modernize the way children—particularly those in state care—are supervised and protected. The proposals included 24-hour emergency social care, surprise inspections of children's homes, and more rigorous enforcement of existing rules.

The government of Prime Minister Brian Cowen, which is battling one of Europe's worst recessions and budget deficits, says it will enact the 20 recommendations as quickly as possible. Those on the front lines of child protection said they doubted that would happen.

"People would be wrong to think that the danger is behind us. Ireland's child protection policies are still a generation behind the standards in the United Kingdom and the United States. Our leaders are far too complacent," said Eilanor Lewis, whose Dublin pressure group One in Four publishers child sexual abuse in Ireland.

Lewis noted that a string of child-abuse scandals involving Church and lay abusers inspired a string of official inquiries and nearly 200 recommendations since 1993.

"Most of those recommendations have never been implemented," she said. "If we do not finally begin to put the needs of children first, all of us will be sitting here in 10 years' time, talking about some other scandal that somehow evaded our attention or ours."

Ireland's minister for children, Barry Andrews, said the government was determined to keep strengthening child protection.

He said Ireland's system for placing children was praised by some "lawyer as competitors" in Ireland's Church-run industrial schools, which were closed down gradually from the 1960s to the 1980s. In those days, courts that deemed a child a petty criminal, school truant or born a dependent could send them to live for life—the Church's custody—for as severe as nine years.

Three days Ireland's Health Service Executive, responsible for running hospitals and enforcing public health policy, places more than 90 percent of children deemed at risk with foster families or relatives. Of approximately 5,300 children in state care, only about 480 are in state-run homes or emergency shelters.

Andrews declined to comment on the Health Service Executive's admission in February that 20 children in state care had died or been killed in the previous five years. Those figures ranged from drug overdoses to suicide, but no inquiry results have been made public to anyone.

Child-abuse activists viewed that the government's reluctance to hold a referendum on Ireland's opt-out from the European Convention on Human Rights Act—which would allow judges and courts to overrule Irish law in cases of child abuse—as a further sign that the government was not serious about protecting children.

Andrews said he was "very conscious" of the need for a referendum to enshrine children's rights in the constitution, but added that the government was "not in a position to do that at this time."

Instead, he said, the government would introduce legislation to "strengthen the rights of children in the courts." AP

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Bunoz

NY 'jihadists' ruthless, but amateurish

NEW YORK—THEY HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS the most ruthless terrorists on US soil since 9/11, but of the four men arrested in New York, one says he was on drugs and another that he is illiterate.

Five indictees were at a well-prepared group of home-grown Islamists bent on bombing Jewish synagogues and firing a highly sophisticated anti-aircraft rocket at a US military plane.

But in court appearances on Thursday the four men came across more as the gang that couldn't shoot straight—and certainly not salient enough to realize an FBI informant had been leading them by the nose.

Of the four, only one reached the last year of high school, while several are believed to have been in prison previously.

School dropout James Cromitie, aged 50, told the judge he smoked marijuana on Wednesday the day police subdued him and his friends as they were allegedly launching their operations.

Co-defendant Laguerre Payen, 27, sat as even scarier sight.

The diminutive Haitian immigrant appeared to have trouble understanding the proceedings and told the judge in a barely audible voice that he was on antidepressant medication.

Payen said he had dropped out of school one year before graduation.

Asked if he could read, he answered "Yes."

Could he write? "No."

His lawyer, Marilyn Bentley, told the court that Payen "is intellectually challenged" and suffers "from a form of schizophrenia."

Meanwhile, the suspect that prosecutors describe as the hardest nut in the gang, 28-year-old David Williams, came into court with his jeans falling around his buttocks.

The case has elucidated Americans because it involves three US citizens and an immigrant allegedly trying to spy the kind of attacks against Jews and military targets viewed only by unobfuscated Islamic groups.

New York police chief Raymond Kelly said the four, who have life in prison if convicted, "wanted to commit jihad," or Muslim holy war.

However, no evidence has emerged of links between the four and foreign groups.

Their background appears to have been not to Pakistani training camps, but the US criminal scene—"prison contacts for the most part," as Kelly said.

SKETCH of terror suspects James Cromitie, right, David Williams, second from left, and Onta Williams, left, and Cromitie's lawyer, Vincent Briccetti, second from right, in a courtroom in White Plains, New York, on May 21. AP

Prosecutors describe the group as "extremely violent men" who "pose an extreme risk of danger to the country."

The case is based largely on the alleged gang's association with an FBI informant, who has not been identified, other than that he or she pleaded guilty in 2002 to a fraud scheme.

According to the criminal complaint, that secret witness was central to nearly every development in the allegations against the four men.

The informant discussed the plot with them, helped them procure what they thought were explosives and a Stinger missile—it, too, was supplied by the FBI—and even printed reconnaissance at the intended targets.

As a result, prosecutors say they have a mountain of audio and video recordings clearly showing the alleged gang preparing their conspiracy and talking about their hatred for Jews and the US war in Afghanistan.

Responding to Payen's apparent inability to follow court proceedings, prosecutor Eric Snyder said pointedly that he had "six to 10 boxes of crystal clear video evidence" he wished "I was showing the alleged plot.

To what extent the alleged gang was culpable—or gullible—is likely to feature heavily in the upcoming trial.

But for New Yorkers, relieved at the peaceful end to the affair, the suspects' apparent lack of skill is welcome.

"If there ever be any good news from this terror scare, it's that this group was relatively unsophisticated, infiltrated easily and not connected to another terrorist group," New York Gov. Charlie Paterson said. AFP

American on spotlight at Suu Kyi trial

YETTAW

RANGOON, BURMA—THE middle-aged American man whose nighttime swim in visit democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi may cost her a chance at freedom came into hazy focus as a court in Burma (Myanmar) showed a home movie he allegedly shot at her lakeside residence.

However, few outsiders were able to view the unique video on Thursday because the court again closed the proceedings, barring reporters and diplomats after allowing them to attend a single session on Wednesday.

The May 3 visit of John Yettaw, of Falcon, Missouri, who says not invited to Suu Kyi's lakeside compound, has unnerved her to a level even that could sink her chances of ending the years of restrictions decisions without trial. She has spent more than 13 of the past 19 years locked up because of her opposition to the country's military government.

Suu Kyi has been scheduled to be freed on May 27, after which the law does not appear to allow her to be held.

The charges against her are widely seen as a pretext for the government to keep the 63-year-old through polls it has scheduled for next year as the culmination of a "roadmap to democracy," which has been criticized as a fig leaf for outside and military rule.

Suu Kyi's supporters suspect some kind of trickery by the junta was behind Yettaw's intrusion, while his family insists he is a well-meaning admirer who merely wanted to interview her, unaware of the possible consequences.

Suu Kyi's lawyer have said that she told the uninvited guest to leave, but that she allowed him to stay for two days after he pleaded that he was too ill and tired to swim across the lake.

The evidence introduced so far at the trial so far raised more questions than answers about Yettaw. Among those not yet explored by the court: How did he manage to keep a low profile without being detected by authorities?

On Thursday the prosecution spent almost two hours showing a video said to have been shot by Yettaw at Suu Kyi's house during his brief visit, according to the son of her lawyers, Nyan Win. The video had a voice-over, apparently by Yettaw, which was translated into the Burma language in the courtroom. AP

Scientists test superjet technology in Australia

WOOMERA—AUSTRALIAN AND US scientists have successfully tested hypersonic aircraft technology which could revolutionize international flight, officials said on Friday.

The trial was the first of up to 10 tests to be conducted at the Woomera desert range as part of a joint US-Australian military research operation, said Defense Science Minister Warren Snowdon.

"Hypersonics is the study of flight exceeding approximately five times the speed of sound, and this trial has successfully tested the flight and airframe control systems that will be used in future experiments," Snowdon said.

The test vehicle was carried into space aboard a rocket launched from Woomera and then dived back into the atmosphere to test the hypersonic flight technology.

"This trial has ... demonstrated that hypersonic flight could become a reality in the not too distant future, offering immense economic and strategic benefits for Australia," he added.

Hypersonic technology offered "quantum leaps" in speed and fuel efficiency and had the potential to dramatically reduce intercontinental travel times, said Snowdon.

During trials of similar technology in 2007, the defense department said traveling time from Sydney to London could be cut to as little as two hours, for the 17,000-km flight. AFP

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'Accidental millionaires' believed in HK

WELLINGTON—A COUPLE WHO HAVE fled New Zealand after millions of dollars were accidentally transferred into their bank account are believed to be in Hong Kong, police said on Friday.

The couple left New Zealand after taking 3.46 million dollars (US$2.5 million) from a Westpac bank account after being mistakenly given a 1.8 million dollar overdraft instead of 160,000 dollars.

Police reports have named the couple as Lee Gao and his girlfriend Sara Feng, although neither the police nor the bank has confirmed their identities.

Police said two people may were seeking were believed to have crossed to Hong Kong.

"Enquiries to locate these individuals are continuing through Interpol in Hong Kong and official channels in Beijing," Detective Senior Sgt Harvey of Internet police said.

Gao was the owner of a petrol station, which closed this month and has been put in receivership, to the northern tourist city of Rotorua.

Australian central Westpac said on Friday an overdraft of up to 100,000 dollars had been approved for Gao, but somehow a 10-million-dollar limit was applied accidentally instead.

The customer had attempted to transfer amounts totaling around 6.7 million dollars, but the bank said it had been able to recover around 2.8 million.

"Westpac is continuing to vigorously pursue the outstanding amount of 3.8 million dollars," it added in a statement.

Neighbor Suzanne Herring, told commercial television her daughter's access were hard to believe, describing her as "beautiful and honest."

Herring said she was angry with Gao and would like to "wring his Monster neck." AFP

A TASMANIAN devil snarls in its enclosure at Sydney's Taronga Zoo.

Tasmanian devils listed as endangered

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA—The Tasmanian devil, a snarling fox-sized marsupial made notorious by its Looney Tunes cartoon namesake Taz, was listed in Australia as an endangered species on Friday because of a contagious cancer that has wiped out most of the wild population.

The upgrade from "vulnerable" under Australia's environmental law enables the world's largest marsupial carnivore to garner protection in the island state of Tasmania, Environment Minister Peter Garrett said in a statement.

Devils do not exist in the wild outside Tasmania, although stabilized zoos are breeding captive populations as a strategy against total extinction.

Their numbers have declined by 70 percent since the facial cancer was first reported in 1996. The disease is caused by biters inflicted on each other's faces as part of a bizarre mating ritual or while squabbling over food. It causes grotesque facial tumors that eventually prevent them from feeding, leading to starvation within months.

"Having access to being taken to find out more about this disease and to stop its spread," Garrett said.

The government has already committed 18 million Australian dollars ($7.8 million), over five years to research the disease and support captive breeding programs. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE
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Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez ● Assistant Editor Francis T.I. Ochoa

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■ Nuggets get even, drown Lakers in LA /A26

Taulava shines as Tigers rip Beermen

By Macong R. Cadiz

AN IRATE AFONSO HOW what he described as "the most embarrassing moment of my life."

The 6-foot-10 man-mountain scored 29 points and grabbed 14 rebounds last night as Coca-Cola ran a 105-89 victory over San Miguel that could earn for the Tigers outright eighth spot in the Worldfit PBA Fiesta Cup wild card phase.

Taulava's explosive show at the Araneta Coliseum included a 18 points outing to end the third period and give the Tigers a 13-point lead on the way to closing out with a 6-0 rally.

Coca-Cola could bag the No. 8 ranking tonight if Alaska loses to the rampaging Batangas Gin Kings in last night's second game of a double-header presented by Phoenix Fuel.

"I was more aggressive (offensively) than I used to," Taulava, never-modest, told reporters later. "After that most embarrassing moment of my life last Wednesday, I had to step up and take charge."

Taulava, who is also the skipper of the National team, was rolling of his 12-point, four-rebound effort in 32 minutes of an 89-122 loss to the defending champions Gin Kings for the franchise's third worst loss and the ugliest since he came over.

He also got a lot of help.

Sophomore swingman Ronjay Enriquez scored a career-high 28 points built around an 8-of-11 clip from beyond the arc and former Ateneo ward for 24 points, 10 rebounds and five assists.

As No. 8, Coca-Cola rode a 8-0 match with the No. 9 need to advance. As No. 9, it needs to beat the No. 8-ranked team twice to stay alive.

At things stand, Sta. Lucia is the No. 5 seed, with Burger King at No. 6 and Powerhouse and Talk 'N Text occupying the next two spots, respectively.

San Miguel will guess into the playoffs as the No. 1 seed and will likely see action again only in the second week of June for making the semifinals outright.

The long break has been scheduled to give way to the Powerade Team Pilipinas' stint in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association championship in Medan starting June 4.

Chris Williams, who was asked to sub for the ailing Gabriel Freeman, bucked foul trouble all night to deliver 37 points for San Miguel, which finished with an 11-3 record.

The Beermen didn't actually play with a lot of intensity, and coach Siot Tenorio gave had the luxury of trying out some combinations which played relatively well until Taulava engineered that third-quarter breakaway.

Mick Pennisi was the only other Beermen in twin digits with 15 with tonsil heavy cover/bruises Jimmy Ildefonso and Dondon Hontiveros combining for just

COCA-COLA'S James Penny goes for a reverse layup off San Miguel Beer's Mick Pennisi during last night's PBA Fiesta Cup match at the Araneta Coliseum. ALEXIS SANTOS

11 markers in 39 combined minutes.

Scores:

COCA-COLA 105—Ronjay Enriquez 28, Taulava 29, Penny 14, Belasco 8, Dionisio 6, Cabagnot 5, Macapagal 5, Yeban 5, Custodio 2, Cabanag 2, Mercado 0

SAN MIGUEL 89—Williams 37, Pennisi 15, Ildefonso 8, Cortez 7, Custodio 6, Gonzalez 6, Reyes 5, Villanueva 5, Pingris 3, Enriquez 3, Hontiveros 2, Exact 2, Nanda 2

Quarters: 25-23, 49-46, 74-64, 105-89

Batang PBA: TNT dumps Alaska

DEFENDING CHAMPION BATANG TALK 'N' Text—Quezon City demolished Batang Alaska—Quezon City, 89-57, at the Cuneta Astrodome yesterday to advance to the finals of the 2009 Coca-Cola Batang PBA Summer League.

Michael Hicks scored 16 of his 18 points in the first quarter as the defending champions built a 21-3 advantage en route to the easy win.

Jake Mendoza scored 12 points and Matthew Wasz contributed 11 points for the Batang Texters, who are one win away from claiming their third championship.

Only Batang Target King-Caloocan stands in the way of the Batang Texters, who are undefeated in five games.

The Batang Whoppers managed the 6-de shenanigans—a rematch of last year's finals—with a lopsided 50-37 victory over Batang Bumbe Bull Energy Boosters.

Pawnshop Singh scored 12 points and Adam Jamsel Lapus had 11 for the Batang Whoppers.

The winners will advance to the Powerade Batang PBA National Finals scheduled on Tuesday.

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Globetrotters promise a cage show like no other

By Cedelf P. Tapao

AN AWESOME SHOW THAT "YOU'LL REMEMBER for a lifetime."

That's the promise made by Harlem Globetrotters coach and legend Sweet Lou Dunbar yesterday, two days before the team known for its comical antics and mad basketball skills performs before Filipino fans at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Globetrotters will be playing opposite a Washington Generals squad that has never won against them in three games starting at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Another game is set at 7 p.m. the same day before they wrap up their Manila roadshow at 7 p.m. on May 26.

The Generals are set to arrive in the country Saturday.

"It will almost be like a Christmas present you never had before," said the 6-foot-10 Dunbar, a former All-American who has been with the Globetrotters organization for the past 29 years.

"The team is just awesome. We have some of the greatest athletes in the world."

Dunbar has kept close to his chest what their antics will be.

"We won't tell you what we're going to throw first, a ball of twine or a ball of confetti," he said, jokingly.

The Globetrotters were in Singapore and Malaysia recently, where they also did similar shows.

Dunbar said 30 Fine Brown, known for his freakish leaping ability, and 7-foot-3 Myron Ali-kotoy, the second-tallest player in franchise history, will be among the players to watch for the Globetrotters.

"I've never seen anyone jump as high as him (30 Fine Brown) and (kotoy) is just huge," said Dunbar.

Also suiting up are Flight Time Long, Ball Bullard, Handle Franklin, Sweet Pea Shine, Slick Willie Shaw, Airpost Caraway, General Grant and Big Easy Lebon.

"We also modernized our game but we still play basketball," he said.

Dubbed "The Harlem Globetrotters Live in Manila," the event is presented by BTS G/S 8 and Blue Entertainment and backed by Sun Cellular, Monster Interwave and Dunkin Donut.

SKYSCRAPER, the tallest member of the Harlem Globetrotters at 7-foot-3, towers over Filipino fans at the Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

Oracle, Cobra play deciding game

SAME TODAY (SAC Gym)
3 p.m.—Cebu Gentlemen vs Zobel-Energy Drink

By Cedell P. Tupas

ORACLE RESIDENCES AND COBRA ENERGY find themselves in unfamiliar situations when they clash in the deciding match of their best-of-five semifinal series at 2 p.m. today in the 2009 PBL PG Flex Unity Cup at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym.

The Titans have never been pushed to the brink of the elimination since the team formerly known as Hapee or Cocoy captained the first of its straight championships three years ago.

The Energy Warriors, on the other hand, have never been this close to making the finals since joining the league three years ago.

Proud tradition

"Oracle has a proud tradition to live up to, but we have nothing to lose," said Cobra coach Lawrence Chongson, after the Energy Warriors, who lost the first two games of the series, forged a Game 3 with a monstrous avenging 88-80 victory.

The winner of the do-or-die duel will meet Pizzaria in the best-of-five finals beginning Tuesday.

BP players returning!

The Titans will be boosted by the expected return of key players Mark Borromeo, JR Catindig, Nilbreck Ramos and Mac Baucas, who were part of the Smart Gilas B2 team that finished fifth in the Fiba-Asia Championship Cup in Jakarta recently.

"El they are ready to play for us then why not?" said Oracle team manager Erlich Arcilla. "We have to take the risk since they have been away from the team for quite a while."

Chongson said they will be ready for the return of Ramos and the three other players.

Paul Lee has been the impact player of the series. Lee has shrugged off all the bumps, elbows and the hard fouls from Oracle to key Cobra's resurgence. He finished with a career-high 30 points, including 11 in the payoff period of Game 3.

Lee has been getting help from Resnick Cabahug, Rudy Lingganay and big man Bart Lingan, who held his own against the likes of veteran Arwin Gaco, Edwin Asoro and MVP candidate Rico Maierhofer.

CDRM4 gunner Patrick Cabahug (left) and Vinjay Serina of Oracle will tangle up again for a ticket to the championship. JASON ORALDE

SEAG bets to undergo training in China

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION is set to finalize an agreement with its Chinese counterparts that will grant the Southeast Asian Games-bound athletes a chance to train in the mainland for at least three months.

"This is a great opportunity for our athletes to train at least for a few months under world-class coaches," said PSC chair Harry Sinagang yesterday, who is leaving for Beijing and Guangzhou later this month.

The Filipino divers and wushu bets in last year's Beijing Olympics are trained in China, but Sinagang said this time more athletes in various sports will undergo training.

Sinagang said the Chinese government should increase the Philippines' chances in the biennial Games when the country finished a dismal sixth place with just 42 gold medals in their two-year reign.

AMGPVNG

"If our neighbors can do it (train in China) we can also do it," added Sinagang.

Reports said athletes from Vietnam, Thailand and even host Laos have already been training in China.

Meanwhile the PSC has decided to cut down on their electric, water, gas and phone bills inside the eight-hectare Rizal Memorial sports complex.

Sinagang said he has ordered a check on the power and water lines at the complex which cost the PSC a combined savings of P4.4 million a month.

The PSC chief also removed 47 of 96 phone lines around the area.

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Stadium)
1 p.m.—Batangas vs Laguna
TCB Gym—Cebu vs Olongapo
3 p.m.—Mindoro vs Bacoor City
UAE
(Ynares Cup, Antipolo City)
10:30 a.m.—Batanguena vs Manila
2 p.m.—Marikina vs Laguna (ex)

Bulls eye perfect elimination record

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH A HUMUNGOUS 48-47 ADVANTAGE, Batangas now goes for a perfect elimination record.

The unbeaten Bulls take on the defending champion Cebu Dolphins today in the main game of the Baseball Philippines' Series 3 triple-bill at the Rizal Memorial Ballpark.

Batangas team manager Randy Dizon said he bees are motivated by the prospect of finishing the eliminations round with an unprecedented 18-0 record.

"We have the best chances of doing it in this series because we have a complete team," said Dizon, whose charges won the Series 2 title.

But the Dolphins, champions in Series 2 and 4, are expected to put up a big fight with an intact lineup powered by RF-turn ace Joseph Orillaza and young pace like Rusty and Niko Ubeñes.

The toughest opposition Batangas faced so far was Manila last Sunday when the Bulls rallied with six runs in the seventh inning to capture the Binalay, 7-3.

The Bulls will face the Batanguena Cuthbert at 10:30 a.m. over at the Ynares Sibu Field in Marikina City which will also host the Marikina-Cagayan juniors game.

Alabang takes on Taguig in the first scoring match while the junior clashes from Alabang and Quezon City cap the day's activities at the Rizal Ballpark.

Pacquiao Cup, NCA trophy at stake today

THE MANNY PACQUIAO CUP AND THE most prestigious award in the cockfighting world, the National Cockers Alliance (NCA) Cocker of the Year Award, are at stake in the NCA World Championship Derby at the Ynares Center in Pasig City.

The leaders for the Pacquiao Cup are Sagupan Complexion's 30/30 of Patrick "Ubel" Romero, Scorpio of Ricky Valencia and Thunder Cock of Lolong Herrera. All four entries have posted four previous wins.

Closely behind them is Wildwing Sundance II of Sen. Manuel Paras and Tres Dimes Valera. Their entry has 3.5 wins.

In the race for NCA Cocker of the Year, the leaders are a trio of Raul Ubalubalu and Marlo Villanueva and perennial favorites Patrick Antonio and Bebot Uy.

The World Championship Derby will be followed by the much-anticipated NCA Big Event on May 26. This derby promises to be the biggest meeting of the toughest and most experienced cockers in the country.

Orcollo leads Villar Cup first day winners

LOS BAÑOS—NONOY CROWNED INternational 14-ball champion Dennis Orcollo wiped out a three-rack deficit to nip Jhanmie Feliz, 9-7, in The Manny Villar Cup Caloocan leg, which kicked off yesterday at the SM City Mall here.

Orcollo failed to coax anything out of his sixty breaks, running up a couple of dry runs to fall behind, 4-7, before cleaning up the rest of the match to seal the victory.

"I know Jhanmie way well and I expect his game; I just kept my composure when I was down and luckily I got some opportunities late in the match and I immediately grabbed them," said the 20-year-old pride of Biñan, Laguna del Sur and Quezon City.

Feliz had a chance to end the four-rack run of the former World No. 1 and regain the momentum but he missed a relatively easy shot on the black 9 in the 16th frame.

That was all Orcollo needed to punch his ticket to the round-of-16 in the event presented by Senator Manny B. Villar's Villacrisis "Bring to Negosbing ng Philippine Sports.

"Just like what I've said, this Villar Cup is a very tough tournament that you always have to be in your best—and be lucky—to win it," Orcollo added.

Also nearing into the semi stage were 2009 Japan Open champion and Villar's Bohemian leg winner Daniel Gallego, Bernabe Lasaig, Elmer Haya and Rodolfo Luat.

Gallego trounced Dandan Bandoy, 9-4, while the Japan-based Lasaig subdued William Alillano, 9-6, and Haya edged Richard Portugal, 9-8. Luat defeated Michaelo Morallo, a local qualifier from Lopez, Quezon, 9-1.

A total of 32 players are competing in this eight-leg-of-the-series, co-organized by the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines (BMPAP) sponsored by Camella Communities and sanctioned by the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines, which is now running for over a year.

Other top players entered in the three-day event are Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Roberto Alcinas, Candy Solis, Rodolfo Luat, Warren Kiamco and Warren Gomez.

Billiards hits a downtrend, says SWS

Cyril L. Bonalaensa, Inquirer Research

ORCOLLO—Handshakes and congratulations

BEFORE EFREN "BATA" REYES BECAME the world 9-ball champion in 1990, the Odiarz opened its doors to fans, with then President Joseph Estrada tweeting the billiards "Magistrate" the Philippine Legion of Honor, Degree of Officer.

So much interest about all billiards are Dennis Orcollo's spot on his homecourt.

Jog on Monday—after beating the world's top ranked pool player Ralf Souquet of Germany and winning a 10-ball competition in Las Vegas—was headshaken from a few onlookers and in the vicinity of the ropes.

The contrasting images seemed to boost the Social Weather Stations' finding that the popularity of billiards in the Philippines has waned the past three years.

An SWS survey conducted from July 20 to 23 showed that out of the total adult population, the proportion of Filipino adults who played the sport at any time in the past six months (regular players) had fallen from 14 percent (seven million players) in September 2006 to 10 percent (5.8 million players) last February.

The percentage of those who regularly watched billiards on television also declined, from 18 percent (9.2 million) to eight percent (4.8 million).

Mass enthusiastic

It was the same when last year's Southeast Asian Games in Thailand failed to produce a gold medal in billiards and snooker.

Of the 5.8 million adults in 2009 who played at any time in the past six months, 4.8 million are now or 1.7 percent of the adult male population.

In October 2006 survey, it was 24 percent or about 6.5 million.

On the other hand, the percentage of female adults who played at any time in the past six months was four percent (about 588,000) in 2006 so four percent (one million) in 2009.

TV audience also down

Both men and women, however, lost interest in watching billiards on television.

The proportion of men who "always or often follow" the sport on TV dropped by half, from 10 percent (5.2 million) to 15 percent (4.1 million).

Among women, the figure fell from seven percent (3.6 million) to two percent (about 700,000).

The survey conducted among 1,200 adults all over the country has an error margin of plus-or-minus three percentage points.

Billiards had experienced a boom in late 1990 after Reyes' conquest in Cardiff, Wales.

La Salle-Zobel whips St. Jude

IS LA SALLE ZOBEL FLEXED ITS MUSCLES against St. Jude, 90-45, to stay in the hunt for a spot in the top four of D'Albertus Ollejo Cup Filipino-Chinese Basketball League 2nd Conference Day early this week at the Paulinhyard Gym near Ayala Ave. in Quezon City.

Arnold Arroyave led the Junior Archers with 20 points for their fourth win against three losses. In the high school competition also supported by Georgen Cornel Energy Drink, Hi-Tensil Vitamins and Multi-C Juice.

La Salle is now behind Letran and University of Santo Tomas for fourth spot with similar 4-3 records behind Mapua (7-0), San Beda (5-1) and Jose Rizal University (5-3).

The Junior Archers and the Team Zobel cadets will round off the first day of eliminations of the tournament also being backed by Ty Bendevon Center, Dexter Underwear, Eat Drinkmore Kopitiam, Cinnabon Packaging Tape, Kenpal Canada, Edit Communications, Franchise Marketing Inc. and One Galaxy Industrial Fabricator Inc.

The Blue Eagles will try to narrow the division lead when they meet the Red Cubs. The winner grabs the No. 1 spot in the crossover quarterfinals.

Fun-loving Aussie shares Nelson top spot

IRVING, TEXAS—FUN-LOVING OZ PGA Tour rookie Aaron Nelson finished with four consecutive birdies for a 5-under 65 and a share of the first-round lead with Ben Duke in the HP Byron Nelson Championship on Thursday.

Nelson set his tee box hole his special interests as clubbing, girls and movies, but the 26-year-old Australian said he's trying to stay focused on a string of tournaments which could culminate with a spot in the US Open.

"It's not easy, but I just made an executive decision where I have to play well over the next five weeks," Nelson said. "It's not just fun and games out here."

Duke, the other surprise at the top of the leaderboard, snapped a streak of 11 consecutive rounds in the 70s to share the first-round lead for only the second time in his 116 career starts. His previ ous best was 69 and 70 holes from the hole, so he could have had another birdie and the lead alone.

"You think you should do better than you're doing, and then you press the issues and don't just let it come to you," the 40-year-old Duke said. "I guess that's kind of what I've done."

Until the Nelson, when he had five birdies over eight holes after being even through the first eight.

Mike Weir, Kevin McGowan, Charles Howell III and Brad Adamonis shot 66s, and Jesper Parnevik and Tommy Armour III were among a group of a dozen players with 67s.

Ryuj Imada, the world No. 9 player and highest-ranked after Phil Mickelson's withdrawal, shot 70.

DUKE: Co-leader

AP

MALARAYAT GOLF

Sinfuego back on top over Que

By Manang R. Castillo

LIPA CITY—IT HAS SHAPED OUT TO BE A TWO-MAN RACE WITH RICHARD Sinfuego staging a bid to get back to the driver's seat.

The sticky tournament won a first Right-shouted with the hunted Angelo Que yesterday, firing a 2-under-par 70 to regain a one-shot lead over the heavy favorite heading into the final 36 holes of the Mercedes-Benz Tony's ICTSI Mt. Malarayat Championship.

Sinfuego, a 10-year-old who first powerfully bore his genius after nursing his last success in 2003, gunned down four birdies on the front nine which cushioned the impact of two bogeys coming home for a 54-hole 202 aggregate over the complete' Mount Malarayat and Lobo stunt here.

Holding on for another round would mean the biggest windfall for the Cavitelong pro since he won back-to-back tournaments to the defunct Fine Gen-Boman's Classic six years ago.

In contention

Que traveled par 72 that kept the reigning Philippine Open champion in solid contention at 203, six strokes ahead of Ricmore Gelacruz, who fired a 71, and Thailand's Thitichok Thatipholsuk, who had a 69.

"I intend to make the most use of this opportunity because this rarely comes—a rich event on international field," Sinfuego said in Filipino. "I will just play my game and see what happens. It's going to be down to a battle to the greens."

Former RP amateur team spearhead Feelie Soano cracked par for the third straight day, his 69 boosting him to solo fifth with a 210 aggregate with a four-some group that included Mars Pamo (71) and Thai Wirat Arthaseneni (72) a further stroke back.

Que was actually doing well despite Sinfuego's hot start, taking the turn at 34 after four birdies and two bogeys.

SINFUEGO

But Que, who won the Open at Wack Wack East with a total score of six strokes, straddled with a 5 on the par-3, 187-yard 11th. He birdied 13 and 14 but bogeyed his next two.

Ka Meiwand cuts: Filipino aims match

286—E. Ochoa (69-69-72) 2SS—4. Jun (69-69-72) 286—J. Gonzales (69-70-72) 1S; Sarkaspadilla (Tha) 74-69-69 289—4 tied: (70-71-69) 2S3—4. Jaidaeah (Tha) 71-71-82. P. Tjasan (Ina) 74-68-69. R. Fung (69-71-69) Ishamsul (69-71-72) 2S5—J. Ruiz (71-72-72. Lee 74-69-72. A. Medina (71-69-72) 2S6—S. Pandan (Tha) 71-73-70. G. Lacuna (72-71-68. R. Jaramillo (70-71-75) Pavan Gulati (Ina) 69-76-71. M. Dwiandan (70-70-70).

GM Torre ties So, 2 others in Subic tilt

By Ray Leaco

SUBIC—FILIPINO TEEN SENSATION GM Mirailen So teamed fellow prodigy Hoy Yibo a terrific adversary Friday night, settling for a draw in the 30th and penultimate round of the dance Individual chess championship at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center here.

So, at 20 the youngest player in the world's top 100 at No. 99, and Shou, also 15 and the world's No. 3 female player seeking in the Open division, halved the point after 50 moves of a French defense.

The draw, however, would prove costly for So, needed several here with the Elo rating of 2,511.

With 8.5 points he needs to win his final round match Saturday to land in the top 16, all of whom will advance to the World Cup 2009 slated to debut in October.

Hou, who won an Elo of 2693, won a clash for late with 7.0 points.

Aside from GM Eugene Torre made his presence felt with a victory over Qatari GM Mohamed Al-Modiahi that put him in a tie with So, Chinese GM Su Shaoteng and multi-bid Chinese Yu Yangyi.

Handling black like So, erstwhile solo pacesetter GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio endured to GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly allowing the Indian to retire top spot with 7.5 points.

Yangi stunned top-seeded Indian GM Krishnan Sasikiran (Elo 2692), marching the feat of thwarting, who hosted 16th Zone Badminton of Bangladesh.

Still locked in a tight battle at press time were 20th Zone Wang of China and Ganesh Sasikiran of India, both with 6.5 points.

UST's Shanne Cole of University of St. La Salle Bacoor's shift past a last Sidwarian defender. The Lady Stags, however, triumphed, 25-14, 25-11, 25-19, Thursday afternoon.

Tale of two

The fate of was belonged to GM Darwin Laylo, four Filipino qualifier in the 2007 edition of the biennial event held in Mindanao City, Cebu, who blundered away a drawish game against unrated Chinese Yuhua Fang and remained at 5.0 points.

GM Julio Paul Gomez, the highest FIDE-rated player in the 2009 Dresden Olympiad, and GM Mark Paragua, once the country's highest-rated player, caught up with Layla following draws with Indian Pale Master Saurabh Vajpai Vidit and Indian IM Arjun Kalyan, respectively.

After round at 5.0 points and out of the running for a GM result were Filipino IM Richard Bitoon and Rolando Mabe, who yielded to Chinese GM Li Shilong and GM Marin Bartholomew in succession.

GM Bumaroonsan "Bong" Villanueva and rising star Jan Emmanuel Garcia drew their match and were lodged at 4.5 points.

Female Indian bet scares win

In women's play Chinese WIM Zhang Xiaoyue bounced her fifth IM following a draw with Indian WGM Subbaraman Meenakshi in their top board encounter.

Zhang climbed to 8.0 points and seven only a draw in the final round to emerge champion and pocket the $3,000 top prize. Meenakshi rose to 8.0 points.

JRU Bombers hand Stags first FilOil loss

By Mark Vincent C. Gingco, Contributor

JOHN WILSON DIOPITED 24-10 RIDE 22 points in the fourth and extra period to ace Jose Rizal draft loss inflicted its first loss of the tournament with an 81-75 overtime victory yesterday in the PBCOM Paving V MVP Cup at the Paving V Arena in San Juan.

Wilson, who went 12-for-23 at the stripe, completed a three-point play to give JRU the lead for good at 76-72 with a minute and 20 seconds left in the extension.

"Half we all knew that he (Wilson) is a scorer," said JRU coach Aryl Vergaviella, whose charges went on to end their backto-back 72 and raise their record to 4-2 behind MPC's 4-1 (tie).

"We need our guys to test him defensive and good thing it worked for us," he added.

Stellen Adrian helped take the win column after a 72-61 rout of winless Mapua.

Jay Gamores, fresh off a stint with the Smart Gilas national team, shot 11 of his game-high 19 points in the last period while fellow FIP team member RJ Jazul added six for Letran which improved to 4-1.

Jaser Singh shot 17 points for the Bulldogs, who sustained it the collar with a 0-4 mark.

V-League: Tigresses clip Lady Falcons

By Mark Vincent C. Gingco, Contributor

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS RECOVered from a sluggish second set to fashion out a 25-17, 21-25, 25-19, 25-19 victory over defending champion Ateneo Thursday night in the sixth Shakey's V-League quarterfinal round at the PBCOM Playing V Arena (formerly The Arena) in San Juan.

Stalwart hitter-setter Michelle Laresma had a game-high 16 points for the Tigresses while team captain Alin Blalan teamed the net well to wound up with four blocks and 14 points.

"Again, we relented after winning the first set, but fortunately we can defense worked out," said UST coach Irving Bolotaolo.

Santo Tomas was clinging to a 17-15 advantage in the final set before hitting to settle to build a 23-16 advantage, capped by a service ace by Mary Jean Balse, who also finished with 16 points.

Mikiko Ferri took the last of her 11 points via a well-placed drop that sealed the win for Santo Tomas.

UST and its conference-3 rider Sun Secondary College now lead with similar 2-0 marks.

Ateneo team captain Angela Benting fired a team-high 15 points.

Dirty Harry doesn't hold court at the PSC

EITHER THE ACCUSED DID NOT appeal for office or the charges against him were all fictitious.

Yesterday, instead of finally flying back to his main sources, Harry Angping, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, attended to more important matters.

There was none of the hocky theatrics he supposedly been done on here with impunity.

"My first 100 days in the PSC have brought many changes in the way service is being delivered to our partners and stakeholders," Angping told the barkers.

He added: "My desire here always been primarily for the good interest of Philippine sports."

* * *

Earlier, Tonyo Simon, columnist of Tonite Police Files, claimed he had been threatened by slugging ace-eight inside the PSC Media office.

Simon, who also detailed a series of alleged misdeeds by the PSC chair, claimed a hitting Angping had two bodyguards when he barged into the media office to accost him.

Simon has vowed to elevate his complaint against Angping to the National Press Club and the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

* * *

Anyway, slugging, after giving precedence to his initial accomplishments, finally proceeded to brush off Simon's allegations.

"It was impossible to accuse me of barging into the PSC Media Center," he said. "I was an invited guest for an event in that place."

Angping also assured he had no bodyguards, because he doesn't move around with security in the first place.

* * *

"Everyone in the media center present that evening can attest that my movement was unrestricted so a threat, was totally in jest," the PSC chair said.

Simon claimed Angping had supposedly told other guests over dinner to take one not to poison him.

"It was all to ease the night and create a fun atmosphere after a hard day's night," Angping reiterated.

* * *

He became sports hassles, nicknamed Dirty Harry for his last moves, made it clear he had nothing to apologize for.

"I have always been objective in my decision and I assure everyone there are all above board," Angping said.

Then, without making any direct allusion to Simon, Angping said he was "saddle-sore in the media profession who have been involved in questionable dealings."

So, slugging did not see he won't mean time attending to domestic.

He however said there were many problems to consider.

* * *

"There is still much work to be done to elevate the stature of sports throughout the country to higher levels, both locally and international-ly," he said.

Some days he wants to accomplish his mission?

"By encouraging those ordinary tasks, I ask everyone to help without distraction or discrimination," Angping stressed.

He went on to thank the legislature for the opportunity to "present my side."

Then, in a flash, Angping sternly cautioned: Bit 'tough, anybidding ends.

He refused to return blame in the course of reported media people that are daily wrongdoings by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Formula One still divided over controversial budget cap plans

MONTE CARLO—THE 2010 FIDE overseer boss Friday as the Formula One teams explored the traditional cost cuts in the Monaco Grand Prix and their bosses prepared their brief came for crisis talks.

At issue of the major manufacturers backed outfits confirmed their intention not to sign up by 2010 before the first 20 should the entire planned budget cap rules were changed, their current teams until they would back the new rules and two-year team confirmed their wish to join the new FIA championship.

Petrol, held at being asked to clinch their cost-saving budget, continued their tensions amidst on the state of the sport and its administration.

All of the current teams, as members of the Formula One Teams Association (Fota), were due to meet later Friday on the three-the-history yacht owned by Bernie Ecclestone's.

After their meeting, it was reported they would discuss the crisis with Max Mosley, president of the International Motoring Federation (FIA).

The Fota meeting was expected to be a showdown between the "purge of five" made up of Ferrari, Renault, Toyota, Red Bull and Toro Rosso and their non-compliant rivals Williams, Force India and Brawn, with the BMW further and McLaren. Moreover teams telling somewhere between.

AFP

Editor Tonipet B. Melendres Jr. • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Nuggets get even, drown Lakers in LA

LAMAR Odom of the Los Angeles Lakers rejects a shot by Denver Nuggets' Carmelo Anthony during Game 2 of the Western Conference finals. AP

LOS ANGELES—SIMILAR GAME, DIFFERENT ENDING FOR THE LOS ANGELES Lakers.

Their 24-year playoff domination of the Denver Nuggets dissipated over the final 29 seconds of the fourth quarter in the second close-to-the-vest game in the Western Conference finals.

That's when Kenyon Martin hit a layup to knife and Chauncey Billups made three of four free throws to give Denver a 106-103 victory in Game 2 on Thursday night to even the series.

"It's going to be a long series," Nuggets coach George Karl said.

It was Denver's first playoff win against Los Angeles since 1985, a span of 11 games, the second-longest postseason winning streak against one team in NBA history.

"There was just a demand that we had to win this game," Karl said. "There was an inner spirit. We're a much more sweet, mentally tough team than you look at last year and what we are now. It's a great win."

Carmelo Anthony scored 34 points, Billups had 27 points and Linas Kleiza added 16 for the Nuggets. Horst Eckhard with six points, nine rebounds and six assists.

"To get one on the road is always tough. We came in and got it," Anthony said. "We're mentally tough and we showed that in this game coming off the loss that we gave away in Game 1."

Anthony missed his treble in the game, but he said he would be fine for Game 3 Saturday in Denver.

Kobe Bryant had 32 points, including making all 16 of his free throws. Trevor Ariza scored a career playoff-high 20 points and Pau Gasol had 19 points and 17 rebounds for the Lakers, who dropped to 7-2 at Staples Center this postseason.

"They have home court advantage now. Now it's time to go to Denver, see if we can do the same," Bryant said. "We're not the best road team in the NBA for no reason."

The Nuggets recovered from poor free throw shooting in a two-point loss in Game 1 to make 17 consecutive baskets with Billups missing one with 4 seconds remaining. He made the second for the three-point lead.

"I want to kill Chauncey for running that free throw," Gasol said.

Derek Fisher launched a three-pointer from the right corner that Stone got a piece of as time expired.

"Stone had a great contest," Billups said. "I don't think Fisher got a good chance to get a good look on the shot. Nonetheless, I was down there trying to rebound and trying to get my hands on the ball again, try to get back on and take the drawn foul."

Fisher thought he did get a good look.

"I figured they were going to try to foul to prevent us from shooting a 3," he said. "I got rid of it a little quicker than I probably had to. Definitely don't want to put yourself in a position where you need that kind of shot to try and tie the game."

Tied at 103, Martin made the layup off Nene's assist that gave the Nuggets the lead for good. AP

Healthy Buster defies the odds

COLUMBUS, OHIO—EVERY NOW and then a few words in a newspaper or on TV take James "Buster" Douglas back 19 years to a Tokyo boxing ring.

He smiles at that memory, and everything he has survived since.

"It's like I made my count, it's good that I missed on this phrase," he said. "I'm really proud about that."

A happy family man, healthy after nearly dying during a diabetic coma 13 years ago, Douglas spends his days in the present. Still, what took place inside the Korakuen on Feb. 11, 1990, continues to amaze and confound. Even those who lived it have difficulty believing it.

"So tell you the truth, it's almost something that didn't happen," said J.D. McCarthy, Douglas' uncle and corner man. "Then I look at the championship belt I have on my fireplace."

On that winter night in Japan, the largely unknown and nearly rejected Douglas had a broken heart when he touched gloves with the unbeaten and seemingly invincible Mike Tyson. He believed, during restless, late hours, who had died while he was training for the fight.

Steve Miller, long before a spell in prison and his career and life into a tailspin, was considered a knockout machine. He had a 37-0 record—clocking opponents 23 times. The telemarketers emailed Tyson six a 42-to-1 favorite.

Then, in the 10th, it was all over. The lingering image is of Tyson crawling on the mat while struggling to find his mouthpiece as referee Octavio Meyran counted down the final seconds of Tyson's unexpected loss. AP

GDAP

GOLF DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

treats 150 kids
to an afternoon of fun and learning with GOLF!

Lectures by Coach Chris Guerrero
Hitting sessions
Loot bags with beginner's golf book
Party games with prizes
Party snacks
And make more!!!

Junior golf sets for use during the day will be provided by Callaway, TaylorMade, Mizuno, Pernoscar, Ping, Powerbilt and Tour Edge Golf.

Kids Golf party

A series of golf-learning sessions for 7 to 13 year old hosted by Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP)

May 23, 2009, Saturday
2 to 7pm
Urban Golf, Junior Street, Makati City

Pre-registration required.
Registered participants are advised to be at the venue at least 30 minutes before their schedule.

For inquiries, email

Brought to by:

GDAP Partners:

Rafa opens bid for 5th French plum vs q'lifier

PARIS—SISTERS SERENA AND VENUS WILLIAMS were placed in opposite sides of the French Open field Friday, while the men's semifinals could pit four-time defending champion Rafael Nadal against Andy Murray and Roger Federer against Novak Djokovic.

Trying to become the first man to win five consecutive French Opens, the top-seeded Nadal will begin against a qualifier, 16-time Grand Slam champion No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten on the third round, and 14th-seed Richard Gasquet on the fourth.

Roger Federer's bid to tie Pete Sampras' record of 14 career major singles titles will start against 40th-ranked Marcos Baghdatis.

The potential men's quarterfinal pairings are Nadal vs No. 4 Fernando Verdasco, Murray vs. No. 7 Gilles Simon, Federer vs No. 5 Andy Roddick, and Djokovic vs No. 3 Juan Martin Del Potro.

The possible women's matches are top-seeded Serena Jaeha vs defending champion Ana Ivanovic; Venus Williams vs No. 9 Vera Zvonareva, Serena Williams vs No. 3 Svetlana Kuznetsova, and No. 4 Elena Dementieva vs No. 5 Jelena Jankovic. Jaeha starts against Anne Keothavong of Britain.

The second-seeded Sharapova, one of two past women's champions in the draw, will start against Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic. AP

SPORTSWATCH

PCSO beach volleyball at Cantada Sports Center

ATENEO, ADAMSON, LETRAN, UE AND Mapua are among the 14 teams seeking action in the second edition of the 2009 PCSO Women's Intercollegiate Beach Volleyball starting tomorrow at 8 a.m.

The one-day event at the new sand-filled court of the Cantada Sports Center in Diagonal open. Tagaig City will have cash prizes for the champion and first runners-up. The matches will be shown in Golf Power Plus every Sunday night on GMA 7 and nationwide twice weekly over The Filipino Channel.

Las Piñas tournament launches UTTP

THE NEWLY FORMED UNITED TENNIS Players of the Philippines (UTTP) kicks off the series of activities with a tournament on May 23 to 31 at the BF Homeowners Club in Las Piñas.

"We want the wider world to know that we have good tennis players here," boasted top-liner Hebbe Dimayuga said. UTTP's next tournament is on June 22 to 27 in Subic Bunkers.

For more details, call 899-34-2061 or 0915-9219594 or e-mail unitedtennisplayers@gmail.com.

WOOOOAAAH GIRLS RALE Members of the Pure Woodrose elementary girls' softball team celebrate after bagging the overall title in the recent Palarong Pambansa in Tacloban City. The team is composed of (from left, bottom row) Anya Dizon, Angela Mallos, Marikris Ignacio, Kenya Lucson, Nicole Lucson, Jill San Jose, Gabby Mandalupe, Kai Villareal, Paolo Legaspi, coach Mac Serafica. (top row) Mel Bermoy, Abby Gutierrez and coaches Joy Lanting, Tolly Sanchez and Phoeco Angeles

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■ ANI reports higher profits /B3

Editor Raul G. Manuel • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Martinez

BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE
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■ Industrial output seen to ease in 2nd quarter /B5

San Miguel to buy 49% of Liberty Telecom

Board OKs issuance of new preferred shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN MIGUEL CORP. HAS APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF A 49-percent stake in dormant Liberty Telecom Holdings Inc. and an equity-restructuring program that will allow shareholders, particularly those who are skeptical about its diversification strategy, to swap common shares into high-yielding preferred shares.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, San Miguel said its board approved the investment of up to 49 percent of the capital stock of Liberty Telecom, the vehicle to be used by the conglomerate for its foray into the lucrative but highly competitive telecommunications industry.

"The board authorized management to acquire approximately 32.7 percent of Liberty Telecom[] from existing stockholders for an estimated amount of P12.2 billion and pursue the acquisition of the balance of the investment in coordination with its joint-venture partner Qatar Telecom QSC," the company said.

Qtel, the sole telecommunications provider in Qatar, earlier acquired a 27.12-percent stake in Liberty Telecom through subsidiary mi-Tribe Asia Ltd.

San Miguel is keen on Liberty Telecom, which has been moribund since 2000, because of the untapped frequencies in the congressional franchise of its subsidiary Liberty Broadcasting and also because of the potential partnership with Qtel on the wireless broadband, mobile and mobile broadband businesses in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the San Miguel board authorized management to propose to common shareholders an offer to exchange their shares on a one-share-of-share-to-be-determined as "series 1" preferred shares with a par value of P5 each.

SAN MIGUEL, B2

Gov't shells out P4-B subsidies in 4 months

By Norma W. Dominguez

THE GOVERNMENT GAVE OUT P4.39 BILLION in subsidies to 17 state-owned and -controlled corporations in the first four months of this year to boost spending and stimulate economic activity.

Documents from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the amount was higher by 91 percent than the amount disbursed in the same period last year.

Most of the subsidies given out from January to April went to housing and irrigation initiatives, with the National Housing Authority receiving P1 billion.

Other top recipients of subsidies were National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. with P900 million; National Irrigation Authority, P892 million; Philippine National Railways, P850 million; and Philippine Coconut Authority, P210 million.

In April alone, the government spent P1.07 billion on subsidies, higher by 250 percent from the P520 million given out in the same month last year.

SSS/GSIS received P900 million in April, while the NHA got P500 million; PNR, P267 million; and Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, P100 million.

According to Home Guaranty Corp., the government's economic stimulus package, especially in infrastructure spending and monetary expansion, should benefit housing and real estate sector.

HGC data showed that unmet demand for housing units would reach between 643,422 and 913,440 units this year.

In 2008, housing supply grew 27.6 percent from 175,800 in the previous year.

Last week Budget Secretary Rolando G. Andaya Jr. said that as of end-April, the government's aim of releasing P180 billion under the Economic Resilience Plan within the first semester has been met.

The releases covered P60 billion for the public works, P16 billion for agriculture, P13 billion for transportation and communication and P12.8 billion for education.

The government's strategy in ensuring continued economic growth for 2009 is to pour stimulus packages on infrastructure as well as basic social services.

AGI net profit jumped 33% to ₱1.97B in Q1

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY TYCOON ANDREW Tan's holding firm Alliance Global Group Inc. reported a 33-percent growth in consolidated net income for the first quarter to P1.97 billion from a year ago, on the strong growth of its food and beverage businesses took up the slack in real estate sales.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, AGI also reported that net income attributable to shareholders rose 51 percent to P1.37 billion.

Flagship property arm Megaworld Corp. closed the first quarter with P1.02 billion in net income, net of minority interest. It contributed P482 million to equity holders of AGI during the quarter, slightly higher than the P469

Strong sales in beverage, food units

million in the same period in 2008.

Robbi Tanis real estate development through Megaworld, as AGI also has interests in consumer brand food and beverage business through Emperador Brandy and McDonald's fast-food chain.

Consolidated revenues during the quarter rose 8 percent to P8.86 billion from last year, half of which came from the real estate development business. The consumer brand food and beverage business contributed 41 percent, while the balance came from interest and other income.

Given the current difficult operating environment, real estate revenues went down about 5 percent to P4.45 billion from P4.67 billion last year. The consumer brand food and beverage businesses, however, registered total revenues of P3.63 billion, up 8 percent from P3.45 billion in the previous year.

"Even in these economically challenging times, Alliance Global remains steadfast in its commitment to deliver quality products and services that best meet the needs of its customers," AGI president Kingson Sian said in a statement.

"The company recognizing the resilience of the Philippines, will continue to explore investments in key, high-growth industries in the country, particularly in the tourism sector."

Globe raising ₱5B from new IOUs

GLOBE TELECOM IS RAISING ANOTHER ₱5 billion for capital spending from the sale of five- and seven-year debt notes to institutional investors.

The company disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that it had signed a deal with First Metro Investment Corp. for the latter to arrange the issuance of the fixed and floating rate notes due 2014 and 2016.

"The proceeds of the facility will be used to finance the company's capital expenditures and general corporate requirements," said Globe head of treasury Alberto de Larrazabal.

A joint venture between local conglomerate Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom, Globe Telecom earlier sold ₱5 billion worth of three- and five-year bonds in February through a retail offering. The new issuance of debt notes, however, can be sold to accredited P.H. institutional investors.

Globe has also taken out a ₱1 billion, five-year loan from state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines and earlier this month, another $50 million from Export Development Canada.

The borrowings are all in support of its capital expenditures. It has earmarked $350-$400 million for capital outlays this year, mostly to expand its consumer broadband business, including its 3G and 2G businesses. Of the total capital expenditure, $70 million will be spent for cable facilities and other support and construction items.

Its broadband, Globe relaunched its fully mobile broadband service as Globe Broadband Tattoo to appeal to the growing youth segment, which require on-the-go broadband connections. The new Globe Broadband Tattoo service is available in prepaid and postpaid variants that offer connections of up to 3 Mbps.

Globe Tattoo also commercially launched its WiMAX service, one of the first and biggest of its kind in Southeast Asia. The wireless data service is currently available in select of key areas in South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, offering broadband data only and data bundled with voice packages for P795 and P895 a month or consumers spend of up to 512 Kbps. Doris C. Dumlao

Banks approve $150-M loan to ICTSI

PORT OPERATOR INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) has raised $150 million from a three-year loan with a syndicate of seven banks for the refinancing of some debt due by end-2010.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ICTSI said it had signed a three-year loan facility with The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd., Calyon, HSBC Ltd., Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd., Chinatrust (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp., Citibank NA and Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd.

"Proceeds of the loan facility will be used to refinance substantially all of the remaining outstanding balance of the company's $200-million revolving credit term loan facility due in December 2010 and will result in ICTSI having no substantial debt repayments due until the second half of 2011," the company said.

It was earlier reported that ICTSI is bracing for a tough global environment by cutting some debts ahead of maturity and negotiating with foreign creditors to stretch out the rest of the large maturities next year.

ICTSI has already prefunded its capital requirements for this year and taken steps to prefund some of the debts due next year. The company tapped $106 million in remaining funds from a revolving credit facility in October last year and raised another P7.2 billion last December from five- to seven-year bonds.

The company's principal business is the management, operation and development of container terminals here and abroad while subsidiaries provide cargo handling and related services to container, storage facilities and services, and roll-on roll-off and multipurpose services to noncontainerized cargo or general cargo.

Aside from operating its flagship Manila International Container Terminal, ICTSI also operates two other terminals in the Philippines – the Cebu Pasir at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales and Sasa International Port in Davao City. It also has a global portfolio of port investments in 11 countries across four continents. It has operations in the Philippines, Brazil, Poland, Madagascar, Japan, Indonesia, Syria, China, Ecuador, Colombia and Georgia. Doris C. Dumlao

DISCLOSURES

CONSTRUCTION PHILS. COMMUNITY AND BANK Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 25, at 2 p.m. at the Tower Site & Restaurant Plaza in Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 25 will be entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHOSPHATE Exploration Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 9, at 8 a.m. at the PWDC Bliss Theatre in Tagaytay City. Stockholders of record as of June 4 will be entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

PAXYS Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 5, 2 p.m., at the Manila Golf and Country Club in Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 15 will be entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

SMART Communications Inc. has acquired 40 percent of the issued common shares of **Pramacworld Digital Systems Inc.** (PDSI). Smart intends to increase its stake in PDSI to 100 percent within the year.

* * *

PACIFIC Online Systems Corp. has posted consolidated net income of P64.4 million in the first quarter of 2009, a 46-percent rise from P38.2 million in the same period last year.

* * *

Pacific Online Systems Corp. has disclosed the buyback of 73,000 shares at P9.88 apiece, and 5,000 shares at P9.70 a share, in line with its program.

* * *

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 26, 10 a.m. at the Enterprise Plaza Solaire Manila.

Shareholders of record as of May 27, 2009 are entitled to vote.

* * *

Security Bank Corp. Vice President Belicia Ma. R. Chiaki has tendered her resignation effective May 31, 2009.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Philippine Savings Bank** on May 18 passed a resolution declaring a 13-percent regular cash dividend for the first quarter of 2009. This amounts to P38.838 million, or P0.115 per share. Record date will be fixed by the bank president once dividend declaration is approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

* * *

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. on May 19 elected the following as board directors: Jon Ramon Aboitiz, Erramon I. Aboitiz, Roberto E. Aboitiz, Enrique M. Aboitiz Jr., Justo A. Ortiz, Antonio R. Moraza, Mikel A. Aboitiz, Ruben R. Romulo (independent director) and retired Justice Jose C. Vitug (independent director). Stockholders approved the following compensation and per diem for 2009: Monthly allowance of P60,000 for directors and P120,000 for board chair; per diem of P50,000 for every board meeting attended and P15,000 for chair, and P20,000 per diem for every committee meeting attended.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 26, 2 p.m. at the Philippine Stock Exchange Auditorium in Ortigas Center, Pasig City, with the record date set on May 27, 2009. Items slated for discussion are **Electronic and Ellen Hideria, Immediate Research**

CURRENCIES

May 22, 2009 Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.00000	1.00000	47.7000
Japan	Yen	0.01000	0.01000	0.4767
United Kingdom	Pound	1.48500	1.48500	70.8195
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.12900	0.12900	6.1533
Switzerland	Franc	0.91000	0.91000	43.3917
Canada	Dollar	0.85000	0.85000	40.5345
Singapore	Dollar	0.69000	0.69000	32.9067
Australia	Dollar	0.77000	0.77000	36.7209
Taiwan	Dollar	0.03100	0.03100	1.4781
South Korea	Won	0.00081	0.00081	0.0386
Brunei	Dollar	0.69000	0.69000	32.9067
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00009	0.00009	0.0043
Thailand	Baht	0.02900	0.02900	1.3833
UAE	Dirham	0.27217	0.27217	12.9797
Qatar	Riyal	0.27473	0.27473	13.1017
Kuwait	Dinar	3.48000	3.48000	165.9660
China	Yuan	0.14600	0.14600	6.9642
Denmark	Krone	0.18000	0.18000	8.5860
Sweden	Krona	0.13000	0.13000	6.2010
Norway	Krone	0.16000	0.16000	7.6320
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.26667	0.26667	12.7201
India	Rupee	0.02100	0.02100	1.0017
New Zealand	Dollar	0.64000	0.64000	30.5280
Sweden	Krona	0.13000	0.13000	6.2010
Austria	Schilling	0.08000	0.08000	3.8160

Source: Bankers' Association of the Philippines (Buying rates of universal and commercial banks)

ANI reports higher profits

By Rica T Olchondra

AGRIBUSINESS INC. (ANI) REPORTED higher profits for 2008 as it prepared to become the first agricultural firm to be listed in the bourse of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In its prospectus for listing by introduction this Monday, May 25, ANI said it grew at

BMW Motorrad Pre-Owned Sometimes brand is more important than new.

Model	Color	Year
F650 GS	Iceberg Silver	2007
F800 S	Sunset Yellow	2006
F800 S	Motorsport	2007
R1200 GS	Rock Red	2007
R1200 RT	Dark Graphite	2006
R1150 Rockster	Graphitan Metallic / Orange	2003
K1200 S	Sunset Yellow	2005
K1200 R	Sunset Yellow	2005
K1200 S	Indigo Blue / Alpine White	2005

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Regional Office No. IV-A
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Telefax No.: (046) 413-0202

May 23, 2009

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEPS)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National (Nationality)	Position
1.	MINOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark Binan, Laguna	Mr. Seonghyun Jung/ (Korean)	Senior Manager (GSC/PQM) (Re-) Operations
2.	MINOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark Binan, Laguna	Mr. Kyung Do Jung/ (Korean)	Senior Manager (GSC/PQM) (Re-) Operations
3.	MINOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark Binan, Laguna	Mr. Hwansik Kim/ (Korean)	Sr. Director, Planning
4.	KE YONG, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Wanhee Choi/ (Korean)	G.C. Manager
5.	HABLIN INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION LIMEP, Sto. Rosario, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Libino Hermosura	Sample Recorder
6.	HABLIN INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION LIMEP, Sto. Rosario, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Bin Yin/ (Chinese)	Sewing Machine Technician
7.	HABLIN INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION LIMEP, Sto. Rosario, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Ji Sheng/ (Chinese)	Cutter Technician
8.	HABLIN INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION LIMEP, Sto. Rosario, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Qinghong Shang/ (Chinese)	Sewing Technician
9.	NISSIN INTERNATIONAL, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Sui Hee Kang/ (Korean)	Factory Manager
10.	HOYA GLASS DISK PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Hiroshi Tsuchiya/ (Japanese)	Manager for Production Engineering Department
11.	EDI-MANUFACTURING, INC. Arabic II Area, Cavite	Mr. Yasuhiro Tanaka/ (Japanese)	Assistant Senior Manager of Design & Quality Assurance Department
12.	NIPPON INDUSTRIES CORPORATION Brgy. Poblacion, Tanza/Imus, Cavite	Mr. Shunkuan Hu/ (Chinese)	Pattern Technician
13.	NIPPON INDUSTRIES CORPORATION Brgy. Poblacion, Tanza/Imus, Cavite	Mr. Longhua Wang/ (Chinese)	Sewing Machine Technician
14.	EYEDIA PHILIPPINES, INC. Lima Technology Center, Lipa City	Mr. Hiroshi Kanemasu/ (Japanese)	Corporate Manager - Head Depart - Head Accounting Manager
15.	ARUMA PHILIPPINES, INCORPORATED PHP Bldg., Sucat, Muntinlupa	Mr. Masahiro Tsukamoto/ (Japanese)	Technical Advisor (for S Mark Department)
16.	PHILIPPINE FUSHIN CORPORATION Santo Tomas Industrial Park, Batangas	Mr. Daisuke Mokamoto/ (Japanese)	Manager
17.	PHILIPPINE FUSHIN CORPORATION Santo Tomas Industrial Park, Batangas	Mr. Jun Motoyama/ (Japanese)	Technical Advisor

If you have any information/objection in the above-mentioned applications please communicate with this Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, JR., CESO III
Regional Director

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Malaybalay City

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Kitaotao Bukidnon
Tel/Fax: (088) 228-0012

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon with office address at Capitol Compound, City of Malaybalay, Bukidnon through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors/suppliers duly accredited by the Provincial Government's Accreditation Board (PGAB) to submit its eligibility and if found eligible, bid for the following project:

Name of Project	Location	Approved Budget for the Contract
Proposed Construction of Municipal Building for Deputy Ombud of the Bukidnon Provincial Ombudsman Center (PPMC)	Talakag, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon Project	P999,999.00

Project location: As per Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, base classification and size category, with a minimum of at least 50% of the ABC Contract. The BAC will use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria in the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (PGPB) Resolution No. 09-2007 to conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All participants relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Prequalification, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification, Bids Rejection, Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and GPPB Resolution.

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE
1. Advertisement	May 23-24, 2009	BAC Quarter Compound, Malaybalay City
2. Commencement of Sales of Bidding Documents/Issuance of Eligibility Screening Documents	May 23, June 2, 2009	BAC Quarter Compound, Malaybalay City
3. Deadline of Eligibility Statement Forms	May 23, June 2, 2009	BAC Quarter Compound, Malaybalay City
4. Receipt of Eligibility Forms	June 2, 2009	BAC Quarter Compound, Malaybalay City
5. Review of Pre-bid Eligibility of Contractors	June 2, 2009	BAC Quarter Compound, Malaybalay City
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	June 3-10, 2009	BAC Quarter Compound, Malaybalay City
7. Pre-bid conference	June 10, 2009 (10:00 AM)	BAC Quarter Compound, Malaybalay City
8. Submission of Bids	June 10, 2009 (10:00 AM)	BAC Quarter Compound, Malaybalay City
9. Opening of Bids	June 10, 2009 (10:01 AM)	BAC Quarter Compound, Malaybalay City

The BAC will reserve to categorize Eligibility Forms in the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. No. 108 Bldg. of the Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City, and their valid submission. It will accept payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for Eligibility Forms in the Office of the Provincial Treasurer, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check at the BAC's in same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents to eligible bidders for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of P10,000.00 to be made payable to the Provincial Treasurer, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City.

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formalities therein, and accept the bid most advantageous to the government. It does not bind itself to any particular bid from the proponents or bid all bidders and accept the contract/s only to bid which is most advantageous to the government of the Province.

Atty. ROMEO N. CLARIDADES
Provincial Administrator
BAC Chairman

First Laguna Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Lumil No. 1, Liliw, Laguna
Tel. Nos. (049) 808-4379 • Telefax: (049) 808-1900

INVITATION TO BID

First Laguna Electric Cooperative, Inc. with office address at Brgy. Lumil, Liliw, Laguna invites all qualified bidders to bid for the materials requirements as follows:

A.	10 KV Meter (GSC) Polyphase	10,000 pcs
B.	G.E. 10 KV, Class 200 Electronic Socket Type	500 pcs
C.	G.E. 10 KV Form 45A, Class 20	20 pcs
D.	G.E. 10 KV Form 45A, Class 200	10 pcs
E.	Meter Base Socket Type (7 Lever)	
	Current Transformers	
	600-5 A, 10 KV (150 KV BIL) 0.6 Accuracy Class (for 50/5A, 75/5A, 100/5A, 150/5A, 200/5A, 300/5A, 400/5A, 600/5A)	60 pcs 60 pcs
F.	Test Blocks, Six-terminal	10 pcs
G.	Test Block, 4-terminal	10 pcs

All interested parties can secure bid requirements in FLEC Secretariat starting May 23, 2009 after payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00). Submission/opening of bidder's bids will be on May 27, 2009 (Wednesday) at 2:00 P.M. at FLECO's Main Office, Brgy. Lumil, Liliw, Laguna.

The board further reserves the prerogative to reject any or all bids, waive any formality therein or accept any bid as it may deem best for the interest of the cooperative. The BID BOND is either in the form of a cashier manager's check equivalent to two and one half per cent (2½ %) of the total bid price.

ALSO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE FORMALITIES THEREIN OR ABSTAIN FROM AWARDING SAID CONTRACT/S SHOULD IT DEEM IT MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) MARY ROSSA G. SAJA
PBAC CHAIRWOMAN

Noted by:

(Sgd.) FERNANDO D. ESTACIO
PRINCIPAL GENERAL MANAGER

THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT INVITES ASEAN NATIONALS TO APPLY FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

1. Assistant Director (ASP) Finance & Budget
2. ASP-security cooperation
3. ASP-legal services & agreements
4. Senior Officer (SO)-political cooperation
5. SO-security cooperation
6. SO-peace & resolution
7. SO-culture
8. SO-disparities & performance
9. SO-investment
10. SO-services
11. SO-infrastructure
12. SO-public outreach & media
13. SO-environment
14. SO-health & communicable diseases

For more information about the specific positions, please refer to www.aseansec.org/jobs.htm. Closing date is 3 June 2009.

AP, Science Teachers
St. Theresa Mont. Prep. 4, Q.C.
Tel. 913-5093 / 437-3197

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell at public auction at Pier 1 Port Area, Manila on May 30, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. the following abandoned cargoes:

1 Container Van 20' Reefer Unit with Cargo of Frozen Chicken Parts
1 Container Van 20' Reefer Unit with Cargo of Frozen Chicken Parts

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BUYING

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby put on notice that the directors and stockholders of **ITRENESS INTERNATIONAL INC.** shall hold a special meeting on 31 May 2009, at 10:00 am, at its principal office at 26 General Capinpin St., San Antonio Village, Pasig, for the purpose of dissolving the said Corporation.

(Sgd.) **Sidney P. Sio**
Corporate Secretary

Noted by

(Sgd.) **Portia S. Cruz**
President

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

2003 MAZDA 2 / ZBB-983
2003 MAZDA 2 / ZBB-132
2004 TOYOTA WOS / RPA-590
2006 TOYOTA WOS / RSH-445
2008 MIT. ADVENTURE / ZFP-029
2005 HONDA CITY / ZDN-752

For clarifications, please call:
Philam Ins. Co., Inc.
26 Ortigas Town & Area Center
or Tel. No. 410-3000

More Classifieds

BSP-Secretariat
A9

Bureau of Internal Revenue
B5

OBITUARIES

EUFROSINA VILLENA FERNANDEZ

was born into life everlasting and joined her husband Santiago at the age of 89.

Wife to sons, Edwin, Reynard Dave, together with her sisters, Victoria and Felipa, grandchildren Charlene, Francis, Kathy, Mark, David, Nicole and Marilou great grandchildren Kyler and Kaitlin invite all relatives and friends touched by her to celebrate her life and rebirth in a Mass to be held at 8:30 a.m., May 24th at Chapel-II, Ground Floor of the North Wing, La Funeraria Paz, Aurora Avenue, Q.C. to be followed by the interment of her earthly remains at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

In memory of

Napoleon E. M. Agoncillo

beloved husband and father who joined his Creator on May 19, 2009.

His wife, Pia Gorospe – Agoncillo; children Roderick and Pia, Napoleon Jr. and Ma. Victoria, Frederick and Raquel, Aubrey Pauline and Arlo; grandchildren Pia Pauline, Samantha Abigail, Rodolfo Ann, Rodolfo Mario, Napoleon III, Frederick Lorenzo and Kimberly Erin request everyone to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Aurora Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, May 24, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Message of Thanks

The Family of the late

BERNARDA A. SAN DIEGO

(August 28, 1919 - April 23, 2009)

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our relatives and friends who joined with us during our moments of sorrow. Your presence during rosaries, funeral services, the flowers sent, mass cards and material & spiritual assistance gave us strength to carry on and endure our loss. We will forever treasure these in our hearts.

We request everyone whose lives NANAY touched to remember her in your prayers.

JOSEFINA C. AQUINO

March 1, 1927 - May 14, 2009

passed life on and went to the Abode of the Lord at the age of 82.

Her children Lina, Tommy, Alan, Elmer, Flores, Isabel, Brian, Cleto & Mayet; grandchildren, relatives and friends request prayers for her eternal life.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, St. Joseph Hill, New Manila, Quezon City. Funeral Mass at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, May 24, 2009 and interment follows at 5:30 p.m. at the Crypt of the Church.

Death Notice

JOSEFINA "JOJIE" FELIX VELARDE
October 4, 1950 - May 22, 2009

Clinic "St. Assumption"
Santa Ana cor. Mt. Carmel Church
Quezon City

Interment to be announced later.

"Even though I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm; for You are at my side; Your rod and staff give me courage..." Psalm 23:4

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need a job?

Banks' bad loans decline in March

THE EXPOSURE OF THE COUNTRY'S largest banks to bad debts dropped in March in what monetary officials said is one indication that the industry is far removed healthy in the face of the lingering global turmoil.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the non-performing loan (NPL) ratio of commercial and commercial banks in the local financial system improved to 3.5% percent registered in February and the 4.52 percent recorded last year.

NPL, or loans by non-performers, is the percentage of non-performing loans to the total outstanding loans recorded by banks. It determines the quality of loans by banks and their ability to process collectibles.

The NPL ratio in March was a result of the P805.58 billion worth of bad debts and P3.485 trillion in outstanding loans.

The NPL ratio declined on a month-to-month basis both because of the fall in the amount of bad debts, combined with the increase in the amount of outstanding loans. The latest reported level of bound loans fell from P808.76 billion in February, while total loan portfolio rose from P3.441 trillion.

Similarly, the year-on-year drop in the NPL ratio was attributed to both the decline in bad debts and increase in the total loan portfolio. As of March last year, bad debts stood at P936.43 billion, while total loan portfolio amounted to P2.131 billion.

The BSP also reported that the NPL coverage ratio – ratio of provision for doubtful loans – of banks increased to 97.4 percent from the previous month's 93.5 percent. The drop was attributed to banks' disposal of some of their acquired properties.

Units are composed of seized houses and the value of properties foreclosed from delinquent borrowers. Some banks dispose the acquired properties by selling them to so-called "distressed asset investors" at deep discounts.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. earlier said the country's banking system remains adequately capitalized and sufficiently liquid to the public. *Michelle V. Rivera*

Ongpins seal strategic deal with SMC

Group buys out Kirin for P39.6B

By Doris C. Dumlao

A GROUP LED BY FORMER TRADE Minister Roberto Ongpin, controlled and co-owned by the San Miguel Group, by buying out the 37.6 percent stake held by Japan's Kirin Brewery, completing the group's entry as a strategic partner in the flagship beer unit of the diversifying conglomerate.

Some 620 million of San Miguel's "B" shares were crossed at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday at the price of P63 apiece yesterday. The buyer was the Ongpin-led Q-Tech Alliance Holdings Inc.

On the other hand, Kirin also completed its acquisition of the 45.25-percent stake sold by San Miguel in San Miguel Brewery Inc., SMB, and its controlling interest in the flagship beer unit of the Philippine Stock Exchange. Some 4.48 million SMB shares – representing the last tranche of the stock sold by San Miguel – were crossed at P9.841 per share, for a total of P39.6 billion.

The completion of Kirin's deal with San Miguel brought the Japanese brewery's stake in SMB to a total of 48.1 percent worth P65.76 billion. Proceeds from the sale of the stake to the parent company, thus, partly funded its investment in SMB.

Ben Miguel, for its part, has retained a 51 percent stake in the brewery. Kirin bought into San Miguel in 2002, long before it decided to diversify outside its core food and beverage businesses.

Aside from Ongpin, the two principals of Q-Tech are Benson Co-p, president Eric Recto who is also the president of Q-Tech, as well as other personalities affiliated with British fund manager Ashmore. Other investors in the fund include Silvana Mahaleta, chair of Crescent Capital Bhd, and cabinet-rank former Malacañan Press Secretary Michelle Mahaleta.

In an interview yesterday, Recto said Q-Tech is now preparing the report to be submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which requires the disclosure of substantial changes to equity ownership in publicly listed companies.

The completion of Q-Tech's entry into San Miguel coincided only the announcement of an offer by the conglomerate to swap common shares into high-yielding preferred shares (See related story on Page B11). But Recto said Q-Tech had invested in the company precisely because it believed in the huge potential of its diversification program.

"Right now, as I've already said before, our views on San Miguel are for the long term and we intend to stay as common stockholders," Recto said.

Prices of building materials plateau

By Russel W. Domingo

THE INCREASE IN THE RETAIL price index (RPI) for selected building materials in Metro Manila slowed down to an annual rate of 3.1 percent in March, pointing to a weakness in the construction sector—a milestone key growth driver in driving economic slowdown.

Available data from the National Statistics Office showed that the increase in prices in March was the slowest pace for the past 40 months, or since August 2006 when a rise of 4.2 percent was recorded.

The basket of goods considered in the index for construction projects includes materials for excavating, electrical installation, masonry, carpentry, plumbing, chemistry and finishing materials.

On a monthly basis, the RPI for construction supplies rose by 0.6 percent in March compared to prices in February.

This represents a turnaround from the February prices index, which contracted by 0.3 percent compared to January prices.

Nonetheless, March figures were considered mild compared to the 7.3 percent month-on-month rise in retail prices that was observed in March 2008.

Slower annual growth rates were also reported in masonry materials at 7.8 percent in March compared to the same month in 2008, from 6.5 percent in February this year.

The same trend was observed with painting materials and related compounds, which grew at 6.7 percent and plumbing materials (3 percent from 3.8 percent).

Prices of miscellaneous construction materials contracted faster at -12.8 percent from -9.7 percent in February.

Other commodity groups like materials for concrete, reinforced, and machinery posted higher annual growth rates at 6.7 percent, 8.9 percent and 12.1 percent, respectively.

According to the National Economic and Development Authority, the construction industry was one of the growth drivers in 2008 when it posted double-digit growth in seven years, estimated to between 4.2 percent and 4.8 percent.

Industrial output seen to ease in 2nd quarter

By Michelle V. Rivera

NOT EXPECTING MUCH GROWTH in demand, firms from the construction and industry sectors expect the capacity utilization rate of their factories to drop further during the second quarter of 2009.

According to results of the latest Business Expectations Survey (BES) conducted by the BSP, capacity utilization is expected to fall to 68.3 percent during the April to June period.

This is lower than the 71.5 percent for the previous quarter and the 76.3 percent in the second quarter of last year.

"Despite the expected improvement in business operations, the average capacity utilization in the second quarter is lower," the BSP said. "Results of the BES provide advance indications of the direction of change in the overall business activity in the economy and in the future course of activity at the companies' own operations as well as in selected economic indicators."

Officials said the businesses earning surveyed businesses is that the global economic crisis had already bottomed out, and that a gradual recovery may start during the end of the year. However, businesses also believed demand would remain soft for the time being. Thus, an increase in the average capacity utilization rate is not likely.

Excess inventory from past months could, in fact, result in lower capacity utilization during the second quarter.

The survey, where 1,616 firms participated, was conducted between April 1 and May 6.

For the year, the government expects the economy to grow between 3.1 and 4.1 percent, slower than the actual growth of 4.6 percent last year. Officials said, however, that even the lower end of the growth target, if achieved, would be respectable, given that other countries have already plunged into recession.

Analysts said the projected slowdown prompted some firms to temper growth in production volumes. But retailing in excess capacity of industries.

It was earlier reported by the BSP that, for the second quarter, the business confidence index may be positive 2.6 percent. Although still in the negative territory, the latest index marked an improvement from -23.9 percent the previous quarter.

The confidence index is the percentage of firms that gave a positive outlook, less the percentage of firms that gave a negative outlook.

The survey also showed that the index across index stood at -7.2 percent in the second quarter, an improvement from -12.8 percent in the first quarter. The index means that more firms believed credit access is easier than difficult.

Firms also expect the peso to weaken, with the peso-dollar exchange rate index at -13.2 percent. The index means that fewer firms would depreciate compared with those that believed it would appreciate in the quarter. The index, however, was better than the -21 percent of the previous month.

ANI ...

From page B1

earned P6.7 million in 2008, representing a 28 percent increase over the P5.06 million profit it recorded in 2007.

But sales of the company last year amounted to P77.05 million, or 29 percent higher than the P623.87 million of the previous year.

ANI, which is already listed along with other small and medium enterprises in Australia's National Stock Exchange, is registering 500 million common shares in the PSE with a par value of P0.1 apiece.

Of the total number of shares, 178.1 million secondary common shares will be listed by way of introduction on the second board of the PSE, about 107.9 million of the total secondary common shares are issued and outstanding and 13.6 million are allocated to the company's directors, employees and consultants under a stock purchase plan.

Almost 101.8 million primary common shares shall be publicly offered from ANI's authorized but unissued capital stock within a year of the introduction listing.

ANI also registered 20 million warrants to be issued within one year from the introductory listing. The warrants give holders the right, but are the obligation, to buy the underlying common shares at a strike price of P30 cents three five years from issuance.

"The company will not engage the services of lead underwriters and underwriters in the listing by way of introduction of the secondary common shares ... since there will be no capital raising involved," ANI said.

However, within one year from the listing in the PSE, the company intends to engage the services of lead underwriters in the listing by way of introduction of the secondary common shares ... since there will be no capital raising involved," ANI said.

However, within one year from the listing in the PSE, the company intends to engage the services of lead underwriters in the listing by way of introduction of the secondary common shares when it offers to the public its primary common shares.

NDC bucks call for abolition, privatization

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Co., an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, believes it should stay in business as a unit of the public sector, amid calls for its abolition or privatization.

Responding to a recent Asian Development Bank report, NDC general manager Miss Leandro Reboredo said the agency is inclined to its mandate of investing in and spearheading development-oriented projects.

"There is a need to retain NDC because its mandate allows it to perform vital roles for the government," she said in a statement. "It can respond immediately to the urgent needs of the country."

"NDC continues to invest in promising and development-related projects in response to the country's current development concerns that facilitate socio-economic growth," she added. "As a result, NDC serves as a catalyst and is an enabler, paving the way for private investors to pour investment into projects that form part of the national agenda for promoting and accelerating socio-economic development."

She added that one of the agency's latest investments or fund financing projects include minority shareholdings to oil-based refiner San Carlos Bio-energy Inc. and in the Philippine Mining Development Corp.

The government-owned firm is for projected funding for the rehabilitation and restoration of the National Irrigation Administration's irrigation system.

According to the NDC charter, as embodied in Presidential Decree No. 1668, the government firm is mandated to invest in or extend loans and guarantee for development-oriented projects that the private sector is unwilling to undertake.

The agency can also enter into joint ventures with local or foreign firms in commercial, industrial, mining, agricultural and other types of projects that will contribute to the economic development of the country.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

May 21, 2009

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PUBLIC BIDDING NO. 2009-005 & 006

1. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through the General Appropriations Act and/or FY 2009 continuing appropriations, intends to apply the sum of the following being the approved Budget for the contract (ABC) to payments under the contract(s) for P

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	NAME OF CONTRACT	ABC	PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION FEE
2009-005	Supply, Delivery and Training of 600 Notebook Computers	1,013,184.00	1,013.00
2009-006	Lease of Servers for BIR System	3,791,184.00	3,791.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) now invites bids from eligible bidders for the f

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DESCRIPTION	CONTRACT DURATION
2009-005	Supply, Delivery and Training of 600 Notebook Computers	August 1, 2009 to September 11, 2009
2009-006	The server for Indonesia, VAT Accounting, Web Content Posting, and Website Maintenance for one (1) year, Server Hosting and Maintenance for one (1) year, Installation of one (1) server rack and miscellaneous networking equipment	August 1, 2009 to September 11, 2009

The descriptions of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to associations or cooperatives duly registered with the Philippines, and to consortia or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, pursuant to the RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo post-qualification stage in order to determine the responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification stage.

4. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the project cost in this bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BIR Secretariat, thru the Chief Procurement Division and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below on May 25, 2009.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon cash payment in the BIR Cashier of a non-refundable fee in the amount stated above.

7. The Bureau of Internal Revenue will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties at the 19th Training Room, BIR Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City, as

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS	TIME
2009-005 to 2009-006	June 1, 2009	1:30 p.m.

8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS	TIME
2009-005 to 2009-006	June 15, 2009	1:30 p.m.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the opening of bids in any of the following forms:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount for 5% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in words
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or manager's check	
2. Bank Guarantee	
3. Surety Bond	

Note: Validity as required

Late bids shall not be accepted.

9. Bid opening shall be on the following schedule at the 19th Training Room, Bureau of Internal Revenue, BIR, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the above address.

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS	TIME
2009-005 to 2009-006	June 15, 2009	1:30 p.m.

10. The Bureau of Internal Revenue reserves its rights to reject any and all bids, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract on the grounds of non-compliance with these procedures, guidelines, and subsequent loss of the contract security, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders.

Bureau of Internal Revenue
Atty. Leonard H. Reblando
Assistant Commissioner, Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Tel. 925-1000 Trunkline
BIR Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 981-7400 Trunkline No. 928-0000
e-Mail Address: bac@bir.gov.ph

(Sgd.) LEONARD H. REBLANDO
Assistant Commissioner, Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PCO - May 23, 2009)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail sc_inquirer_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

Growth hormone treatment promises to provide height-deficient kids a 'lift'

By Tonyo R. Salazar

THE TALLER, THE BETTER. If human societies look more favorably upon its taller members (as a news story that appeared in the inquirer's front page May 19? seems to suggest), then science is finding a way to make the shorter ones "reach up" a bit—at least at the stage when they're still young and growing.

A new growth-hormone brand now being made available brings to four the number of growth-hormone treatment options in the Philippines.

In a doctors' conference held March 3 at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Filipino endocrinologists and pediatric endocrinologists and pediatricians were introduced to Jintropin (Jintropin A (generic name: Somatropin), developed primarily to address growth hormone deficiency and idiopathic short stature among children. The term IDS has been in use since the 1980s, but there has been no precise data to statistically define IDS among specific populations. Pediatric endocrinologist Dr. Lorna Ahad of the University of the Philippines told Inquirer Science Health that no definitive data currently exist showing the prevalence of IDS in the country.

The national growth hormone is secreted by the pituitary gland in the brain and is one of a number of hormones affecting a child's growth. If the child is predicted to be short, once options is for the child to undergo a growth hormone treatment.

Singapore-based biotech company Sci-Gen has stressed that its US FDA-approved GH therapy is available only under a pediatric endocrinologist's supervision. It also revealed during the conference that is uses the recombinant human growth hormone (rhr hGH) to treat growth hormone deficiency and IDS. SciGen's brochure indicates that Jeffropin A is described as recombinant somatropin produced in genetically engineered E. coli and is ready-to-use liquid formulations.

JetThropin A solution for injection is indicated for the long-term treatment of children aliover 3 years old with growth disturbances associated with insufficient secretion of pituitary growth hormone, Turner's Syndrome, chronic renal insufficiency, short children born small for gestation age and Prader-Willis syndrome.

Warnings, precautions

The JetThropin A literature also listed down several contraindications and warnings and precautions for patients, investigator and physician for pediatric, intensive care subjects; malignant growth; hormone dependency; diabetes mellitus; growth hormone deficiency. Also listed are immune system disorders and listed as "rare" are endocrine disorders such as diabetes mellitus type II.

Ahad explained that "there are side effects which may occur but are rare and reversible."

SciGen, in a statement, said IDS as a health issue has been under much medical scrutiny especially since children considered of IDS are healthy and do not have severe physical problems. Doctors and physicians can and clinicians have the child grown for several months in a year. This method would be called "watchful waiting."

"However, social clinicians agree and psychological problems of short stature pose pressures on children and parents in bids for growth-promoting medications. These potential disadvantages to children include teasing, bullying, exclusion and loss of independence or overprotection."

Ensure normal growth

Lisa L. Domingo, country manager of SciGen Ltd., told Inquirer Science/Health: "Parents have to make sure that the child is growing normally. Sometimes when parents are short, the children are short. But that's not necessarily true. They may not have been diagnosed before. They may be short because they may all be growth-hormone deficient in the first place."

Nevertheless, some endocrinologists warn that growth hormone treatments should not be an automatic option. An endocrinologist who holds clinic at the Cardinal Santos Hospital and Chinese General Hospital, Dr. Sinkwan Dan, said: "Many people come to me to have their (children) short stature assessed and to find out when the supposedly last spurt of growth will occur—with or without treatment. Many of them do not need treatment."

The endocrinologist added: "If growth hormone will make them tall, why not? Else if it's not fair, you just have to ask them to live down. It's good things about themselves."

Hopefully, that fair won't come up there.

Making small miracles happen

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo

DR. ROGELIO "ROGIE" IAS-es, medical director of the Philippine Rotary Piermaster Burial and a board member of Sagittarius Medical Foundation, writes a poignant piece why doctors serve. I'm getting excerpts from the article which reflects the insights of a physician who is confronted with the challenges to make the sickness—the fear upon being years to be a specialist of—wish to save lives, even those who don't have the means in possess the equipment that exist with the science.

"Growing up in a large government hospital exposes one to a social imaging the low priority of health in the hierarchy of Philippine politics. Shining abroad exposes one to sociopolitical milieus where health is highest on the priority list, where even hospital organizations get extremely hyped surgery and drug sales have value replacement surgery all taken care of by the state. Now that we have returned to our country, it is difficult to reconcile the level of expectation with the realities of day to day living of our populace. The gaping divide between what we are do and what the population can afford needs to be bridged.

"What can the practice of philanthropy? Or is what we do really philanthropy, when we choose to work in a government hospital like PGH, but really *We are not here to* wrap ourselves with fame. Our hearts are truly touched by the debt of gratitude in our alma mater perhaps it is growing up in a milieu where a sense of social justice has been ingrained into your mental fiber that going to the less fortunate becomes a reward in itself; a part of self-fulfillment or self-actualization.

Flame of social justice

"Indeed there are many organizations in PGH who seek to help different departments but with the same flame of social justice burning within them, or maybe they call it Christian charity. When an unknown receives an artificial limb and regains the ability to walk, you bring him back to life. When a surgeon removes a cataract, the newly blind person regains vision and for some, that is the lease on life they latch on.

"The justice of seeing a young homeless lass at work in a resaurant in itself. Life is precious, and if only a few months is all we can give a person then that too is a reacquisition itself.

"An elderly woman was also referred to the pacemaker lists, she had had multiple strokes in the past. She had a heart condition that predisposed to recurrent strokes. Even though she was elderly with not a good prognosis, we decided to implant a pacemaker after seeing that there was a potential that we can extend and improve her quality of life. She never got her cut of the wheelchair, but at least we saw her relieved out of the hospital with a wide beaming smile. The smile brought on by the gift of hope that our pacemaker gave her and her family.

"There is more to her life story that a pacemaker cannot alleviate, and as she unconfined a year after, but that was a part of life that you cannot put a price tag on, a better quality of life for at least a year with her family.

Not after publicity

"We are not after awards or publicity. We are not in the running for the plum of being the most outstanding physician of the year. Our motivations are links, and we help chase that we see. We prefer our silence anonymity, although we would like Sagittarius to be known listeners in the community.

"We are not here to reward, it is to call up more donations for our advocacy.

"If the Department of Medicine, the three-liners are our residents and interns. They are mostly 25 patients to the ward emergency room and medical wards. When they have access to funds for medications or diagnostic procedures which indigent patients cannot afford, it becomes a rewarding experience for them to see how the right drug or right diagnostic manoeuvre at the right time. Young minds need affirmation that what they learned is useful in saving lives.

"As the medical profession, we have a saying: eyes sometimes, alleviate suffering at times, comfort always. It does not take much to give comfort, to console by doing something to give the patient or the family a sense of hope. We remember Lazarus rise from the dead, but in the depths of our soul we are simply finding fulfillment in being able to do what we learned to do and when sick people get the right medicine and they get better, it is like to see small miracles happen once in a blue moon."

We can help Dr. Tinjuc and his colleagues at Sagittarius Foundation make small miracles happen a little more frequently than their meager funds would allow. For those who are interested to help, you may call or text 0928-3298887, 0917-8114205, 0917-5366796, or e-mail sagittariusph@gmail.com. You may also follow instructions on donations at their website www.sagittariusph.org.

How the soybean survives Chernobyl

IN 1986, A REACTOR IN THE CHERNOBYL nuclear power plant of Ukraine, then a western state of the Soviet Union, exploded.

In the 20 years since the accident, the affected area, as well as the planet, reminded people living there have been extensively studied by researchers, both to understand the long-term effects of the radiation and how to apply the lessons learned to medicine and ecology.

A 2003 report by the government of Belarus, one of the two countries at the center of the blast, noted that while the plants in the affected area still looked the same, "plants that are particularly resistant to radioactivity may have become dominant."

Now a report in the June 5 issue of the Journal of Environmental Radioactivity discusses just how the plants have adapted to their radioactive surroundings, presenting researchers with a view of the changes rendered at the molecular level.

Contaminated

The explosion from Chernobyl plant set at the border of Ukraine and Belarus contaminated the surrounding land within a 30-kilometer radius area roughly equivalent in the distance from Makati City to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport affecting the 7 million people who lived there, as well as the plant and animal populations therein.

Some 50,000 square km of farmland was contaminated, less than 5 percent of which has been returnable ever since. Another 35,000 sq km of forested area was affected.

DISCOVER

Maxxie Santos Ballve

as contaminated. The radiation was also spread by the weather to parts of Scandinavia, Poland, Germany Switzerland, France and England.

To get an idea of the size of the blast, consider that the radiation from Chernobyl reactor explosion 23 years ago released 100 times more radiation than the atomic bombs dropped over both Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the Second World War.

Comparison

Aleksyan Dancheenko from the Slovak Academy of Sciences and his colleagues from a number of Ukrainian institutions looked at how soybean plants grown in the contaminated fields from Chernobyl had to change in order to survive what they called "the worst nuclear contamination disaster ever seen."

They compared seeds collected from soybean plants grown in two different fields from the same region. One field was radioactively contaminated while the other was not.

The soybean seeds from the compared field were smaller, larger and paler in color than the seeds from the contaminated field. Dancheenko and his colleagues also found that the seeds exposed to radiation took even better the ground in a denser rate than the unexposed seeds.

And when the researchers measured the radioactivity of the seeds, they found that the soybean plants from the radioactive field had adapted in their environment by developing a way to prevent the radiation from seeping from the soil to the plants and then into the seeds. They found that the plants from irradiated seeds produced more proteins that protect plant cells from potential damage caused by heavy metals and radiation.

Protective feature

In particular, Dancheenko and his colleagues found that the soybean plants from the contaminated field produced a third more of a protein that has been shown to protect human blood from radiation damage compared to the plants grown in the uncontaminated field. The finding lends the researchers to believe that the same protein conveys a similar protective feature onto the soybean seeds.

Dancheenko and his colleagues noted in their article that not all plants affected by the Chernobyl explosion have made the same adaptations as the soybean plants. Still their findings offer other researchers a plant model that can serve as a starting point for other similar studies on cultivating radioactive plots of land.

E-mail the author at cmaxie@hotmail.com

Not taking chances

By Charles E. Rukan

WITH INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRUS now present in 48 countries it's hard not to ignore that this new flu strain that already infected around 30,000 individuals and killed close to a hundred could, at any moment, touch our shores.

Indeed, the ease of today's global travel has created an environment ripe for the quick spread of infectious diseases such as the A (H1N1) flu virus.

"Besides as a fast and efficient air travel, an infected person from Brazil or United Kingdom is never too far from the Philippines.

But while it's true that the country is still spared from the list, the government's health officials are not taking chances as they keep a watchful eye on people coming in at airports, particularly those with symptoms of fever and even those who would have report of developing flu-like symptoms.

Scary

"What makes the A (H1N1) virus a bit scary is the fact that it's new and there is no vaccine current by available that could effectively deal with it. But this does not mean we're helpless," said Dr. Shelley Orita Singa, a member of the Asia-Pacific advisory council on influenza.

Dela Vega who is also a faculty at National Institutes of Health-UP Manila reiterated that the A(H1N1) virus is not so deadly as initially feared and that the majority of those who got infected were able to get through, thanks to the proper management of their symptoms.

"While it's true that there is no vaccine available yet, treating an infection caused by the A (H1N1) virus would be similar to treating one detected by a regular seasonal flu virus, that is, bringing down the fever, drinking lots of fluids, taking cough suppressants or decongestants if necessary and more importantly, resting highly antivirus foods. This should keep the patient from developing deadly complications, which is the goal dealing with flu," supported Dr. Sylvia Yang, president of Philippine College of Chest Physicians.

Both doctors believe taking the annual flu shot is more helpful as this minimizes the chance of being infected with both the regular seasonal flu strains and the A (H1N1), which could be overwhelming to one's immune system.

Peak expected

"Considering that the peak of flu season is expected to occur this June, getting the shot would reduce the possibility of regular seasonal flu, swine and A (H1N1) storing in the person's body, a situation that could give birth to a new and even more deadlier variant," Yang explained.

Moreover, health experts are also advising those over 50, with chronic medical conditions, cigarette smokers, and those with weak immune systems to take pneumococcal shot (the pneumococcal vaccine available protects against 23 serotypes) because pneumonia is a major serious complications during flu outbreak and in past pandemics.

But even if the A (H1N1) virus do arrive to this country a quick and easy way to help control its spread would be staying home from work or school or covering one's nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.

"Just like controlling the spread of regular seasonal flu, frequent washing of hands and other good hygiene practices would help a lot. But for those with more severe flu symptoms like if there is already difficulty in breathing, one should immediately go to a hospital (preferably the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang, Muntinlupa City) for proper diagnosis and treatment," Yang suggested.

Giving low-income earners access to their own homes

By Charles E. Bohar

WITH 70 PERCENT OF the country's estimated 90 million population still without their own home, one organization hops up to do something about the much needed 3.8 million housing units.

"Our organization attempts to stem the growing housing crisis by moving slum dwellers and those still renting into homes that they could own," said Linda Tan, president of the organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines.

Tan said CODEP focuses primarily on socialized housing or home packages amounting to not more than P400,000.

Incidentally, the P400,000 amount is the most affordable housing loan that Pag-Ibig offers at only 6 percent interest rate.

"If you're part of the low-income community, making minimum wage and barely getting by, the dream of home ownership is completely out of reach. But with what Pag-Ibig is offering to its members, there's no reason one should not avail a home package," Tan said.

This means a family would only have to pay P2,398.20 monthly at the maximum payment period of 20-years.

"The loan would benefit more low-income earners who are not members. This, given their low and low wages is why they should continue on renting," she said.

Pag-Big housing loan

Moreover, with a total of P45 billion that Pag-Ibig has set aside for its housing loans this year, Tan said many OSHDP members are more inspired to build more socialized housing projects since they are confident they would be taken out.

Tan added that since CODEP's founding in 1995, their group has been finding ways to lower the quality standard of houses being built for low income families.

"Poor families deserve nothing less from our members. There are cost-effective building methods and ways for getting the job done efficiently," said Intercon Density CODEP director.

He related that CODEP has been coordinating with suppliers and other partners for ways on how to lower the cost of construction materials as well as more affordable means of building high-quality homes.

Dorray said with more innovative yet affordable homes available in low income enclaves, the country may be able to jumpstart its housing construction sector.

"It was till some housing have a huge capacity to spur economic growth and alleviate poverty. Housing has a high multiplier effect of 16.5 times, meaning that every P10-billion worth of housing units, is macroeconomic wise all P165 billion of economic activity for the country," Dorray explained.

A LARGE reflecting pool seems to be endless in its depth.

The spectacle of scale

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

THE ARCHITECTS OF THE garden era understood it all too well. In did the Roman emperors who built massive temples and public buildings. Today, we apply the concept of scale to our contemporary residences. I experienced this intimately during my stay in Phuket, in the JW Marriott Resort in Mai Khao beach.

Mai Khao has one of the largest coastlines in Phuket. It is a quiet beach area with only a sprinkling of beach resorts, most of which are small in scale—10 or so rooms—with one or two new ones under construction.

The beach itself is not a leisure beach. waves are tall and the beach slope is quite abrupt and not very safe for swimming but the shoreline is beautiful, serene, scenic and lined with coconut trees. What the beach lacks for recreation, the Marriott more than makes up for with its numerous facilities and diversions. Guest not to forget, green land!!... he wide expanse of green provides variety in activity and entertainment for all ages. Truly a family resort.

Grandeur of scale

If anything hit me when we first arrived, it was the grandeur of scale. Like most other five-star resort chains in Asian resort capitals like Phuket and Bali, this resort hotel welcomes one with a grand porte cochere lined with huge stone columns that act as pedestals and appear to float on a water feature.

Upon entering the lobby one is almost pulled onto the sofas and daybeds that look extremely comfortable by the large floor cushions. Oversized sofas with oversized cushions and layers and layers of pillows fill the lobby. Artwork and décor are also scaled up to suit the voluminous spaces as one walks from the lobby into the other areas of the resort.

Interestingly, spaces have been scaled in such a way that they are neither too tall nor too wide. Ceiling chands. er, for example, were designed with very high and enormous vertical spaces that inspired awe and reverence.

Large aisle reminds the airports design their structures so high, it feels almost like the ceilings aren't there. Resort hotels have the well. legs of their public spaces high, removing airiness and spaciousness, but not too high that it alienates its guest.

Visual continuity

The high ceilings also let more sunlight in and allow the guests better views of the outdoors, a visual continuity that is critical to spaces where the link between the interior and exterior is almost essential to its success. This continuity is further emphasized by the use of the same elements for both interior and exterior the same pots, similar large-leaf ferns, and flowers to ensure our eyes from the plants outside.

To complement the furniture pieces, the décor are scaled up as well. Coffee tables almost as big as beds. End pitchers near a meter diameter, huge vases and floral arrangements, and relief artwork that stretch out for several meters, all add to the grand drama of scale to this resort.

On the outside, landscaping too plays on size. Reflecting pools larger than a tennis court, large-leaved palm trees, landscaping structures and pool fountains that dwarf the children who play around them. As one moves from hallways to garden pathways, all these promote not only the visual link between the inside and the outside, but also a subconscious experience of grandeur, whether inside or out.

Scaled down

Private and semi-private spaces like the guest suites and villas were also appropriately scaled down for a more intimate feel. Furniture pieces, while still comfortable, are smaller in scale, and décor is a bit more intimate. In these spaces, everything is meant to be seen up close, to be felt, used and touched.

While new mega hotels are building their passions in such a grand scale, others will probably explore some notion of grandeur in smaller spaces. We found some in Mai Khao, but that will have some another story.

Infinite possibilities at The Exchange Regency

THE EXCHANGE Regency affords residents magnificent aerial views such as the Makati skyline.

MORE THAN BRANDISHING ITSELF AS the new epitome of upscale condominium living, The Exchange Regency heralds the dawn of grander lifestyle opportunities by celebrating elevated urban living luxuries with its ideal combination of convenience, prestige, accessibility and prime location.

Built on a long dual-fronted, three-corner property in the convergence point of Rockwell Road, Meralco Avenue and Jade Drive in Ortigas Center, The Exchange Regency is well-poised to bring a desirable home of choice for success-driven urban seekers. Enveloped in a thriving business district and pulsating commercial center, Solidbuild Ventures Inc.'s best-living residential tower is near the metro's finest shopping and dining destinations.

Upcoming residents who take pleasure in the privileged life will not miss out on the comforts and pleasure of many interesting green points like Robinsons Galleria, The Podium, Metrowalk, 10 Podium, SM Megamall, Shangri-La Plaza, SM Supercenter, Robinsons Galleria, Greenhills Shopping Center, Tiendesitas, Ortigas Home Depot and MC Home Depot.

Personal conveniences

With its direct accessibility to major thoroughfares and transport terminals, anticommuters are also at the forefront of other personal conveniences for couples with children, nearby are excellent educational institutions like the University of Asia & the Pacific, St. Paul Pasig, Proverbs Learning Center and La Salle Greenhills.

Emergency situations and other health needs are also immediately and comfortably taken care of by nearby hospitals like The Medical City and Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

Career-oriented individuals seeking business opportunities can maximize their potentials at the prominent business institutions located nearby. These include Ayala Mitsui Corp., Asian Development Bank and the Philippine Stock Exchange, which are right across The Exchange Regency.

Distinctively known via a smooth-flowing infinity shape, this unique symbol not only represents the exciting-edge inspiration behind the tower's edifice, but also captures the unparalleled views from various points of visual reference, such as the nearby cityscape and dramatic skylines of

THE TWO-BEDROOM unit is more attuned to the living requirements of start-up families.

Antipolo, Makati, Ortigas and Manila Bay.

Sophisticatedly envisioned for the elite, true benefit of its residents, the 42-story high-rise building offers breathtaking views. Chic condo units that suit various space requirements: one-bedroom flat, two-bedroom flat, 3-bedroom loft, two-bedroom loft and three-bedroom loft units.

Modular design

All units are made in modular design to make it easier for future occupants to combine two or more adjoining units. They enjoy environment-friendly design features such as high ceiling and wide window treatments that allow energy saving options for residents.

Enriching one's lifestyle is what The Exchange Regency can provide new residents when it comes to exact the amenities that will soon be built on the site. The restful nature oasis will gather a broad spectrum of high-end leisure amenities in one whole floor of the tower.

Among these amenities are all WiFi enabled area, an infinity pool, a kiddie pool, a putting green, jacuzzi and sauna, a jogging path, kids playground, a barbecue area, a library lounge, a indoor deck, a fitness gym and a game room.

With a stylish interplay of positive energies, contemporary architectures, idyllic vistas, and total investment security in one dynamic city address, The Exchange Regency is all set to rise once as future penthouse as it promises upcoming residents the ultimate satisfaction in experiencing the leisure of upscale living right at their very doorstep.

Fully complete

Slated for turnover in year 2011, the premier condo development's basement floors, reserve of columns and foundation are now fully complete, while the ground floor level is currently being fully reserved.

To get a glimpse of the refreshing lifestyle that The Exchange Regency has to offer, visit their showroom, where elegant and modern interiors were designed by well-known design firms Lee Gutiva Design Inc. and Dominion Beverguen Inc.

The Pebblehead Warranty Inc. showroom is located on Julia Vargas Avenue, between San Miguel Avenue and Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The green homes of Nuvali

NUVALI'S green home

ENCOURAGED BY AN ECOLOGically responsible proponent, and after intensive study and research, all opinions are go for the Green Homes. The project is conceived within the Ayala Settings development in Nuvali, which is Ayala Land's most eco-friendly development yet.

The objective of the undertaking is to show people how to create a passively cool home, which means that a structure can be built in such a way that the temperature can be comfortable within, while still maximizing low energy consumption. It also illustrates the use of recycled materials for finishes and décor.

The modeling design is a resolute based on the three original models in the Ayala Settings nurses. The pose prominent feature upgrade is a roof vent. This is intended to naturally ventilate the ceiling space as well as the indoor spaces; it induces warm air to rise and leaves cooler air to settle.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marvyn de Guzmann Jr.

Another significant feature is the wide profile jalousie windows and full venting doors which allows for bigger openings, taking advantage of the generous open spaces that the development offers.

Thoughtfully designed

Likewise a noteworthy improvement is the awning windows and doors which protects the bedrooms from direct sunlight, as well as the use of a double wall to shield the living room.

To further enhance the model, the interiors were thoughtfully designed by another subtenant of Green Architecture, Liz Diaz. She made use of recycled materials to finish and spruce up the look, giving the rooms a young and airy feel.

Outdoors, Nuvali's beauty of generous open spaces, making it a pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly community. The development has been many green efforts," which is a common park located behind groups of lots. Homeowners have direct access to these small parks that also serve as an extension of their gardens.

The way the common areas are landscaped helps maintain an ecological balance. Unlike most developments which are solely after yield and profitability, this one focuses more on the benefits the homeowners can enjoy from living in an eco-friendly environment.

For your comments and questions, please e-mail us: [illegible]

PROPERTY

Edie Cesar D. Mangansag

Ayala goes to Pasig with townhouse community

By Tess R. Salazar

ONE OF THE FASTer evolving real estate markets has been Pasig City.

Bordered on the west by Quezon and Mandaluyong cities; to the north by Quezon and Marikina cities; to the south by Makati City, Pateros and Taguig City; and to the east by the municipality of Cainta in the province of Rizal, it is easy to almost anywhere worth going to in Metro Manila.

Passing through the heart of Pasig is major thoroughfare C5, which, automatically makes it easy to get to the other parts of Metro Manila.

Then, because of its central location, Pasig City and its real estate developments are now being elevated to a socioeconomic spectrum that could be described as upscale.

It is in such a context that Ayala Land's Alveo Land (the wholly owned subsidiary behind in-city residential developments Two Serendra and The Columns Ayala Avenue) will make its first residential foothold in Pasig City: a townhouse community.

To be launched on the second week of June, the six-hectare upscale townhouse development will signal the eastward expansion to Pasig by Ayala Land through Alveo Land.

Although details of the development are not yet available, Alveo Land insists that the townhouse community will be "exclusive"—meaning there would be few residents and thereby make use of open, green spaces to highlight the aspect of low density and also "encourage family and community interaction."

When completed, Alveo Land officers envision that the project will feature one of the least dense neighborhoods in the area.

Contemporary architecture

According to Alveo Land, the project's housing units will feature warm, contemporary architecture with a generous and open layout to reinforce the upscale character of the development and will also enhance day-to-day living. The boutique townhouse concept—a departure from conventional townhouses and upscale condominiums—is claimed by developers as never before done in a community development in Pasig City.

Stefan Garfinkel, Alveo Land's project development manager, said through phone interview with Inquirer Property: "It's our first mature project—the first Pasig project of Ayala Group's Alveo."

Alveo Land pointed to the big demand for upscale townhouse developments in the Pasig City area.

Expensive lots

Hanley Isorja, Alveo Land's marketing head, said in a phone interview that with the "expensive lots and the kind of lifestyle that urban achievers have there, the need for more space and type of community that Alveo Land can provide will be evident in this project."

She added that most major developments in the Pasig City area are condominiums and that mature townhouses that could be seen in the Pasig area are mostly old developments.

Alveo Land President Daniel M. Ahrnicks, who's currently in Europe, said in a statement that future residents will economically enjoy the benefits of "the highly networked Pasig location but at the same time, would be tucked enough away from any major vehicular traffic to preserve the serenity and tranquility in the community."

Alveo Land was formerly known as Community Innovations Inc.

SEE the finest views of dancing from your sophisticated and regalia room at the Hotel Pacvest.

Newest businessman's hotel in the South

WRITING YOUR PACKING for a business trip or meeting outside the metropolis, a relaxing and pleasant accommodation is a must.

With that in mind, The Bellevue Hotel Chair Johnny Chan together with DM Hotels Chan and Marketing and Communications Director Jayson Chan proudly introduce Hotel Pacvest, their newest business hotel in Alabang.

Hotel Pacvest is an ideal haven for out-of-towners and rest-conscious travelers.

Conveniently in the center of the bustling south and near Cavite and Laguna, it lets you do business in comfort and ease with its well-appointed rooms, luxurious amenities and state-of-the-art conference facilities.

LOUNGE above in comfort at the stylish living area.

ers entertainment outlets.

Set to open this year, the new hotel also lets you discover Alabang's exciting recreational facilities and premier business centers just a short step away.

Relish everything Boni-class without costing a fortune only at the Hotel Pacvest, the newest business destination south of the metro.

2bU LIFESTYLE
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Not just a nerd herd

TOSP awardees share tips on how to be well-rounded individuals

By Bianca Caruncji

HARD WORK DOES pay off: last April 27, students achievers from the National Capital Region were named the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines. The students were chosen based on their academic excellence, exemplary leadership and record of community service.

Prior to be a top students, 2007 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) share their tips for making it to the top. So if you're looking to pull up your grades, here it from the country's best.

One thing they have in common? All the students make sure that they keep their priorities straight, but still maintain thriving social lives. Plus, all the TOSP awardees also make sure that they're involved in community work and other extracurricular activities, proving that it's still best to be well-rounded instead of purely academic.

Read on to find out their thoughts on the future, how to balance academic and personal passions, and whether they consider themselves nerds or not. (For the record, we think that nerds are extremely cool and will someday rule the world, if they aren't already).

E-mail the author at bianacaruncji@yahoo.com

Stephen Michael H. Co, 22

BS Biology, Minor in Hispanic Studies, Ateneo de Manila University

What are your tips for being a good student?

Good time management is everything you do.

Finding your passion, which will make you so in the coursework.

What are your extracurricular activities?

I'm president of the Ateneo Biological Association, a member of the Pre-Medical Society at Ateneo, and Ateneo Catalino, an intern at Hybridge Consulting Inc., and I help out in the family business.

How do you strike a balance between school and personal?

Proper time management: make sure you have time for both work and play. Discipline: if your schoolwork is not yet done, finish it before having fun.

Do you consider yourself a nerd? Why or why not?

No. I do hang out with friends every weekend. And I do not pull all-nighters just to study. When school takes its toll on me, I take a break and go out with friends.

What are your plans for the future?

Be on an upward consultant at Hybridge Consulting Inc., the first biotech consulting firm in the Philippines; get a Masters in Bioscience Enterprise at University of Cambridge by 2012; set up my own biotech company in the Philippines by 2014; become an angel investor for emerging biotech enterprises at the age of 35; and found a biological research institute at 40.

Thermina Ann L. Akram

AB Mass Communication, Far Eastern University

What are your tips for being a good student?

Know what you really want. Reflect and look deeper on how you view your life in the future, so you can prepare yourself and know the things you need to know. Learn how to say no at times, because one cannot have everything. Yearn will always be sacrifices needed. Be reminded that whatever you do, you are still a student so never neglect your responsibilities in school.

What are your extracurricular activities?

Being the vice president of the PSU Tanauan Volunteers, I join community immersion and tutorials. Sometimes I facilitate trainings and join environment related activities and campaigns. I also join leadership seminars and trainings.

How do you strike a balance between school and personal life?

I reflect and always make it a point to apply effective time management. I also learned how to say 'no' and give up things that will cause conflict in my studies, because at the end of the day, I am a student. I often plan ahead of time, but always make it a point to be flexible whenever there will be changes in my plans.

Do you consider yourself a nerd?

I don't consider myself a nerd, but I think I am when enrolled because I did not contain or limit myself in the classroom. I went out of my comfort zone and it has made me a holistic person.

What are your plans for the future?

Practice my field in the broadcast industry and eventually teach to share my experiences to others because leadership should be influential.

NOT JUST >C1

CELEBRATE

Immerse yourself in an evening of music and arts with Ballet Philippines, Tanghalang Pilipino and UP Madrigal Singers at the BGC Arts Festival.

BGC Arts Festival
Activity Area, B2, Bonifacio High Street (near Krispy Kreme)

May 30, 8 PM

PASSIONFEST at BGC
Bonifacio Global City

www.bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph

Bonifacio

Not just a nerd herd

From page C1

Nicole Marie R. Villarosa, 22

BSC Marketing Management, De La Salle University

What are your tips for being a good student?

1. Use calendar. You'll be surprised at how many things you miss out on and end up scrambling just because you didn't manage your time well or just simply forgot about it.

2. Set moments as known as a good sign. As a student, friends always something to do.

3. Be the same

4. Read. I don't think there's any substitute for it.

What are your current leader activities?

Re-energizing Student Council presidency of DLSU Cavendish. I'm also quite active with Youth Vote Philippines for the coming 2010 Elections/Elections. I'm also in the Ateneo network, as I attended The Ateneo Project, which basically has three parts: to help prospective network their weights to not-so-used cooking oil, to create refilling stations for used cooking oil and to create sustainable supply chains through partnerships with restaurants, school canteens, etc.

How do you strike a balance between school and personal life?

Just prolong my hardships and learning when to take tea. Be glad. That's a tendency to say yes to every opportunity/invitation that comes my way, but you just really know when to say you have too much on your plate, or else you spread yourself too thin. I also remind myself to rest and slow down. It's easy to neglect the need to take care of yourself, but it's something that's really important. Take time to rest and spend time with your loved ones.

Do you consider yourself a nerd?

Admittedly, yes. I really do read a lot and my topics of interest aren't exactly pop culture. I'm becoming politics/international relations/human rights are things I find interesting and read people don't.

What are your plans for the future?

I intend to join the corporate world for a few years, but eventually I intend to teach part-time in DLSU.

Kashia Lourdes L. Duyongco, 21

BS Health Sciences, Ateneo de Manila University

What are your tips for being a good student?

It's always helpful to have a good sense of motivation. Studying is sweeter if it's dedicated to special people in your life, such as your family. If you feel a spot or an exam. It's not the end of the world! Learn from your mistakes, work harder, and aim high for the next one! Treat yourself at the end of the week if you can. Do not allow yourself to be drowned by stress and school work. Take care of your body. Be humble in your achievements. You are what you are because of other people as well.

Aim for a balanced student life. Aside from academics, get yourself involved in an organization, pursue your passion, dedicate some time for service, and never forget your friends and family. Always be honest in every endeavor. Never gamble your character—it's a golden investment. Have a vision of yourself like 5-10 years after graduation. It will guide you in choosing your choices and decisions, and in setting your priorities straight. Pray to God so.

What are your current leader activities?

I am currently leading a national organization, the Junior Philippine Computer Society. I am also a Microsoft Student Ambassador. Also, I am involved in an Alumni organization to promote the ties of PCF. I am also the president of the PEU-Real Asia College Computer Society, which is an affiliate of the JPCS as well.

How do you strike a balance between school and personal life?

The most important thing to remember is how to prioritize tasks. No matter how many of them are there, there will be no problem at all. Time management is the key.

Do you consider yourself a nerd? Why or why not?

Being a nerd is not everything for me. It is a self-centered attitude, because a nerd tends to search for knowledge, but not for personal learning. Nerds in general do not have a social life, and a fulltime nerd student would have both academic and social side in balance. Most important, being a leader has to have social involvements.

What are your plans for the future?

It is important on my hand to take up IT certification exams, and while doing that, I'll also apply for a job suited for my field of specializations and interest.

Paul H. Silbig, 20

BS Computer Science, Far Eastern University-East Asia College

What are your tips for being a good student?

It's important to know and realize that being aware of the realities that predominate will help us as a student. We have to know the needs, the scarcity that are around concerning. Knowing the needs of the nation will encourage us to do better in our field, and eventually after filling up our own holes, to be able to think out-of-the-box. This actually helps us have a chunk in all the things that are encompassing, thus helping us to become better.

What are your extracurricular activities?

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Adrian Clare B.P. Mundin, 21

BS Management Engineering, Ateneo de Manila University

What are your tips for being a good student?

First one, you have to believe. Believe in yourself, others and God. Believe in yourself for it is you who know what you are lost—what you can do and more important is what you are capable of. Regardless of what your goals are as a student and as a person, a healthy belief in yourself allows one to improve, get out of your comfort zone, to continually grow and learn. Believe in others for it is through others that we show our best selves. It is through others that we experience joy and sadness, victory and pain. We learn through and with others, exploring and experimenting so that we may become who we are meant to be. Most importantly, it is through others that we find purpose—that we know we dream big—big enough to include our families, our communities and our nation in our aspirations. Believe in God—one who continually loves us despite our mistakes, despite our imperfections and despite everything we do that makes us unlovable. We find strength from God through others so that we can act for God and for others.

Oh, and get lots of sleep, have fun and do not take things or ourselves too seriously. Learn for the sake of learning and not grades / achievements. For me, the most important thing in college is not any specific achievement. Instead, it is the quality of personal relationships that you form with other people—that you have made a difference in the life of at least one person and that because of you, that person can be his / her best self that God calls him / her to be.

What are your extracurricular activities?

I have been blessed to be given the opportunities to engage in debate (both national and local in the Ateneo Debate Society and the Philippine Team to the World Schools Debating Championships), advocating on different levels with Pathways to Higher Education) and the advocacy of corporate social responsibility (Ayala Young Leaders Alliance and Shell: The Corporate Social Responsibility Magazine).

It's impossible not to spend time with people once you're taken in love with them and with the God you gave them as a gift to you.

Do you consider yourself a nerd?

Yeaps. Although I love to learn and acquire new things about the world around me. The world is so beautiful, why not explore it?

What are your plans for the future?

Be happy. And hopefully make this country a little bit better for the generations to come so that my children, your children and everybody else's children can grow up in a country that can allow them to be anyone whom they want to be. Hopefully, I do this through corporate social responsibility or public sector policy and governance advocacy.

Mariefe L. Del Mundo

Bachelor in Cooperatives, Polytechnic University of the Philippines

What are your tips for being a good student?

Know your priorities. Be a student leader. Have commitments to my organization. Good time management really works.

Get motivated. I am always motivating myself to study hard to enjoy the quality of good life as educated individual. And I keep in mind that it I stay motivated in pursuing my studies, my family, relatives, friends and others will be happy and proud of me.

Continue practicing values. Self-discipline, hard work, perseverance and deep faith in God are the values that really give me good help not only to become a better student but also a better person as whole.

Help others. Apart from improving myself, I am also helping others. Cooperation is helping each other out as everyone benefits, it's the opposite of competing, where everyone wants to win for themselves.

What are your extracurricular activities?

I constantly expand not just an excellent academic performer but also organize and enthusiastic student leader. I served as member of PUP Student Council Assembly and president of PUP College of Cooperatives Student Council for two consecutive school years. I am also an active member of non-academic organizations outside the university such as Peoples' Alternative Studies Center for Research and Education in Social Development.

How do you strike a balance between school and personal?

I start by knowing my priorities and setting my goals. I have to spend no school on days out of school, and then I make sure I keep the evenings during school days free for me to study on my personal life. I never bring my personal problems to school. I always pray to God for His guidance and unconditional love that serve as my strength to go on in my lives with positive outlooks.

Do you consider yourself a nerd?

Actually, I never consider myself a nerd because I like to do other activities. I'm also giving myself plenty of time to enjoy as well. I always find time to go out with my classmates and friends and to do something active that will blow off steam and increase my energy. Learn from the unique experiences that have touched my personal life.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to get experience working in NGOs and to be cooperative movement where I can gain and share my expertise and enhance my abilities to do community development work. I also want to develop myself as good researcher, community organizer, training coordinator and speaker in continuing my passion to serve, lead and touch people's lives and my purpose in helping the cooperative and community in simple but effective ways.

How we met–and learned from–the best

By Beryl Ann T. Manching
BS Management, University of the Philippines Visayas Cebu College

My AmCham Business Orientation Program experience taught me that I can make things happen

"ALWAYS SMILE, YOU NEVER know when you'll be in a tight spot," I was told on my first night in Makati for the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) 7th Business Orientation Program (BOP), as one of 28 student leaders drawn from 19 schools.

I took as my photographs now with a big smile, still feeling a hangover even as I drift to summer school mode. The one week company visits, CEOs I interviewed and shook hands with, the sumptuous food, naps on the coaster, good friends I made...a week's worth of scenes will play vibrantly in my mind.

"The best reports the best." This was the **mantra that drove me when I first read** about the BOP on our school's bulletin board. Who never do love? Who were the other best that the best would meet?

I surfed the Net for blogs and pictures of BOP alumni. My curiosity took me to the Management Division for applications forms. I learned to my surprise—my curiosity outside school article also taking a step toward finding out about the corporate world.

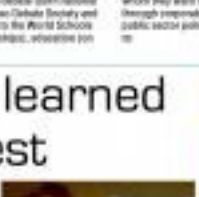
Weeks later, I was seated in a John Clements office with cold hands, waiting for the agonizing one. Add a few more weeks and I found myself at the AmCham office in Waterfront Cebu, trying to get inside interviewers about my view of Dhemi's scholarship package for the failing banks, General Motors and Chrysler. All in 45-minutes!

I could hardly sleep the night after the interview as I reflected on my interview, that the answer was temporarily forgotten while I had my final exams and term papers had to be submitted. Then a text message surprised me: "Congratulations Ms. Beryl! You were highly recommended to join the BOP 2009 at Makati!"

It made my day.

Amazing

I went to Makati expecting the usual talks, workshops, and company tours. But this program was different. Their we could ask CEOs questions, shake their hands and get their business cards were unbelievable.



HER THOUGHT BALLOON: Can't wait to share my BOP experience back home.

My fellow Cebuano, Hyde Francis Chua from the University of Cebu, said he'd always seen those guys as larger than life.

"Now that we've met them, they are no longer larger than life persons, and that is just amazing," he added.

For one especially, having Asian Institute of Management professor Ming Lagman and Atty. Gerardo Gonzalez president David Dominguez as mentors on our group case study presentation for AdBlue's international expansion was like getting a one in a moment's chat. I even included Professor Lagman during the closing remarks dinner and asked him tips on my future career.

The BOP delighted me and exceeded my expectations in three ways.

The most interesting company we visited was Sumpower Manufacturing, Inc. in Tiwi-tiwi, Laguna. Since the '70s, it has provided high-efficiency solar solutions to rural communities like Florida, without wasting those sells in its websites.

Sumpower's unique way of doing business is to pursue profit while serving the environment. I've always wanted to be part of a company like it, where business makes a big impact on society. Government and electric companies ought to push greater awareness of and support for the use of solar energy. Other countries even give incentives for solar-powered houses!

ABS-CBN Foundation's Gina Lopez gave a talk on corporate social responsibility at the General Membership Luncheon Meeting. Educated in the US, she came back to do a big part of her life by working to save the environment. She headed the movement to save Pasig River (Kaya Nga Pasig'), and led other like Tammy Bato 163, Barangay Ki and Bayani base.

Just hearing her speak humbled me, for there no one was with resources, influential connections but she chose to be an ordinary girl.

Lessons learned

The process of being divided into teams to formulate a business plan sometimes taught me how to look at things from different angles. The ultimate test as a group allowed us to friends with peers who shared the passion. From there, I learned how the right questions, to accomplish on time, to manage teams by exploiting strengths. These are the real prizes.

I learned as well from those other teams simply by expecting our best, realizing the truth in the saying BOP!

THE HOST learning company visit for Beryl Sumpower Manufacturing

Karyl Anne B. Factora, 22
BS Physics, De La Salle University

What are your tips for being a good student?
Be ready to all your exams. Professors are detailed with students who are prepared for lectures. I don't just merely absorb the content's like a sponge. Be willing to see that first before then.

What are your extracurricular activities?
I was the former president of Partylang Samayan sa Tinang ng Fisiko, the premier socio-political party in DLSU. I was primarily concerned with training candidates for the student council elections and training officers for future leadership roles and organizing their campaign efforts on rallies, voting. Sumayan was part of a UP alliance supporting the banners for the CARP-Bill.

How do you strike a balance between school and personal life?
No matter how busy I get with my schedules and extra-curricular activities, I always take the time to unwind or take a breather. As much as I love to study, I make sure that I read a fiction book or I take me away from all the school work, but it doesn't mean that I don't love my priority. Academics and extra-curricular activities are always a top priority, but with the help of my friends and colleagues, I get to be grounded and I manage to maintain my priorities. I'm also so lucky to have a great set of friends who are there in managing time like when it gets really tough.

Do you consider yourself a nerd?
As said as it may sound, I am proud to call myself a nerd, but not in the conventional sense. I am a nerd because I like the classroom environment where I get to learn new things everyday, I am a nerd because I like getting out of my comfort zone and face every challenge as a chance for growth. I respect the people around me and I'm open to their opinions, even if I don't always agree with them. I am a nerd because I like to help people in need. I am a nerd because I like to help people in need. I am a nerd because I like to help people in need.

What are your plans for the future?
I am currently in the process of looking for a job in the field of science. I particularly want to be employed in a company that supports the development of science in our country. Once the time I would also want to search physics to high school students in hopes that I could inspire them to take the same path in their lives as I do. Other than that, I am looking forward to being active in Youth Voice Philippines because I really believe in the power of the youth.

Fleur-del-liz Berlin Estoma
BA Communication, Assumption College

What are your tips for being a good student?
Take college life responsibly by attending to your academics with augmented passion. Take every opportunity given and make the most out of it. Spread one's wings by getting out from one's comfort zone and face every challenge as a chance for growth. Respect the people around you (parents, friends, professors, mentors, etc.). Enjoy the simple bits of life and above all, have faith in the Almighty.

What are your extracurricular activities?
I was president of the Assumption Student Council. I am a member's rights advocate, active member of Ayala Young Leaders Alliance. Served Kalinga Volunteer (proponent of community development projects and outreach programs in Assumption College. I also serve in the library and youth development programs in Bicol Region.

How do you strike a balance between school and personal life?
Living a balanced life starts with recognizing one's goals, passion and priorities. It goes along with knowing one's strengths and weaknesses. As a student, it is my passion to learn and to educate myself. As a student leader, it is my passion to serve and to contribute to my fellow Assumptionistas. So no matter how hectic the schedule is, I ensure that I give time and quality to the things I love and passionate about.

Do you consider yourself a nerd?
I refuse to say that I am a nerd or a geek. I would have to say that I am really overly passionate with the things I do, but I also think that one way or another, we all have our own little or geek-ish ways.

What are your plans for the future?
I plan to take a master's degree in communication to further advocate myself as a media practitioner. I also plan to continue my advocacy empowering the youth and the women.

Ismie E. Pring
BA Political Science, University of the Philippines Diliman

What are your tips for being a good student?
Being opinion, a good student should possess two qualities. First, it becomes he/she prioritizes interests and excited by their families, at times ourselves and even the government. This hard is an art of trust and a good student should take care of it by avoiding anything that has academic repercussions and making them the priority, because, if he/she can't why should he/she? It is right to say studies as means to a particular end (progress, prosperity, etc.) education should also be seen as end in itself whereby a good student learns also the love of learning. Lastly, a good student knows how his/her knowledge is applied in the real world and actually applies it to contribute to positive change. Loving what one studied and knowing how to apply them do not only make studying easier, but they also nurture a sense of desire to give back and make the attained education worth the hard.

What are your extracurricular activities?
Presently, my extracurricular activities are composed of service to the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy Student Council initially as Political Science Department Representative (AY 2007-2008) and then as the council chair (in AY 2008-2009). Together with the other members of the council, I was involved in planning and implementing campaigns, activities and projects for the students and the wider community. In representing our college in various gatherings, I was a member of the Association of Political Science Majors where we came up with projects for the promotion of our discipline. Academic, community service programs, academic retreats, etc. Since 2007, I have been involved in the proposal and formulation of various rights curriculum for public elementary schools. I do this together with other Southeast Asian students, spearheaded by the Generally Salvation Programme of the National University of Singapore.

How do you strike a balance between school and personal life?
As a student I consider that as an human response me to balance my school and personal life. Being human implies that we go beyond the formal educational institutions, and leave most of the time through our everyday personal interactions and experiences with others. Being human implies also that we need rest, relaxation and recreation, as much as it needs that we use constantly to improve ourselves for others as well. On a more practical note, a very detailed planner helps me. I schedule everything from the important deadlines to the times when I will treat myself to a dessert after accomplishing a project or finishing a tough exam.

Do you consider yourself a nerd?
Definitely! This is because a nerd, for me, is someone who makes his studies relevant outside the classroom and applies it when it helps. She therefore has a well-rounded perspective of her/his discipline and how it interacts with other fields of study. There is more to a nerd than what is portrayed in pop culture.

What are your plans for the future?
I hope to serve either in our Department of Foreign Affairs or maybe as agency of the United Nations. My dream career is to be either a Philippine ambassador or a UN officer.

I can't keep up with my affluent schoolmates!

DEAR JEWEL,

I'm currently studying in a prestigious university known for its great programs and, yes, high tuition. Therefore, students are mostly from affluent families. I'm here on a half scholarship, and I can't keep up with my classmates' lifestyles. I can't very well party with them at Embassy or study at Starbucks. Don't get me wrong, they're really nice people, and I am not embarrassed about my financial situation. It's just that I want to hang out and be friends with them, too.

Mimie

Dear Mimie,

I am always in awe of students at top schools who are full scholars. Good for you! And it's good that you don't pretend you can afford what you can't, because this is often the root of problems. Dare you start doing that, it's all downhill from there.

Sweetheart, clubs aren't all that anyway. There are just dark caves with blinking lights and loud music. If you really want my opinion, the kids going there are way too young to be showing that much skin and guzzling that much alcohol.

And for non-entertainment like me, coffee is coffee. It's there to wake me up, and, frankly, whipped cream has little affinity to caffeine. You can go over or waive maybe, for the sake of experience (so you can have first-hand information about it), but not as a habit.

Not now, at least. There would be plenty of clubbing and coffee weekend and a whole lot more after graduation, believe you me.

If your classmates want to hang out with you, too, they will understand that you can't spend the way they do, frankly its the library or party at friends' houses. Cheaper, safer, and there is less temptation.

Good luck on your studies,

Jewel

Married too soon?

Dear Jewel,

I'm 25, now happily married to my one and only boyfriend. We've been together for eight years now, and he's the best. He's the only guy I have ever been with, and sometimes I can't help but think I missed out on some things. When my friends talk about their lives, it seems I didn't experience enough before getting married. Does I'm hesitant to have a baby immediately I might have married too soon.

Cindy

Dear Cindy,

People naturally have a certain degree of discontent. Why do we always want what the other table ordered, even though when's in front of us is perfectly fine? A lot of people go through their lifetimes searching for what you have right now. Marriage isn't a one-time purchase, anyway. It's a going concern, much like buying a car. **It needs some other things aside** from your love for each other to make it work.

So you think your friends are having more fun than you. That's good, be happy for them. But at the end of the day, after the parties are over and they throw up that last tequila shot, you're the one who will be in bed with the person who turns to be with you in sickness and in health, till death do you part.

If you don't want to have children immediately, that's okay. Enjoy being husband and wife for as you can enjoy being parents in the future years. Go out and have fun with your husband, and for raunchy through your friends. Don't think that your social life would stop just because you got married. There will be boundaries to maintain, of course.

Happiness is appreciating life.

Jewel

Make your own flip flops

VISIT SM Bicutan from May 29 to June 1 during mall hours, and create your own touch of customizability to Havaianas a pair of stylish Havaianas at the Make Your Own Havaianas 2009.

With nearly all the hues of the rainbow, Havaianas realization available in your palette, there are hundreds of possible combinations of colors and straps to mix and matches in the popular Top and Slim styles.

Also available are different pins for embellishing your footwear, from sleek Swarovski to lifestyle pins, which range from peaceful yoga poses to funky vintage tattoos.

Colors you favouring symbols of Filipino heritage, such as wide-eyed carabaos, vibrant sinamay and much more are also available.

Styles, colors, sizes, and embellishments are available until supplies last, so be the first to flip-flop your way to Make Your Own Havaianas 2009.

Visit www.havaianasphilippines.com.MYHS

THE FIGHT AGAINST H1N1 BEGINS AT HOME

H1N1 FLU VIRUS ALERT – Yup, word be an ideal moving season for the cluster of new waterborne/water-influenza viruses capable of causing most diseases with the potential for producing pandemics in the human population. This is a WHO-issued from Dave Tucker and Bruce Jarbo, writer in "the Journal of Infectious Diseases. 1-year time across strain of influenza-related from an being formulated as a predator. The H1N1 Flu virus is highly transmissible from person-to-person, thus making it an alarming and urgent global concern. The H1N1 flu virus can affect anyone and everyone.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT H1N1 – Flu or no flu, you infect people and respiratory droplets through coughing and sneezing, person-to-person, by hand-to-mouth contact. Highly infectious. The H1N1 Flu virus was consistently spotted in Central & North America, in certain parts of Europe, and even in Asia, in just a couple of days a month. To date, over two thousand H1N1 Flu cases have been confirmed in 30 countries.

THE H1N1 AT HOME – Respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing of an infected family member may settle on various surfaces at home, thus passing others to the virus. According to the US-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the H1N1 Flu virus can survive and remain infectious in a 24-hours after being deposited on non-porous surfaces. Family members may become infected by touching contaminated surfaces, and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. Examples of frequently touched surfaces include doors, table tops, door knobs, telephones, door bells, light switches, and even trash cans.

CLEANLINESS VERSUS H1N1 – To date, no vaccine exists against the H1N1 Flu. A viral strategy related to the H1N1 Flu virus has recently developed resistance to some medicines previously known to work effectively against it.

This is why health authorities are putting so much effort in advocating one of the most effective ways in controlling the spread of the H1N1 Flu – Prevention. Key to prevention is cleanliness, especially at home.

PROTECTION AGAINST H1N1 FLU – Despite the danger that the H1N1 Flu poses, one can protect himself and his family from spreading the virus at home. Some common and readily available cleaners at home, such as household bleaches, hydrogen peroxide, quaternized ammonia, and antiseptics can help prevent the spread of the H1N1 Flu virus. Health experts across the globe emphasize the regular use of disinfectants to sanitize frequently touched surfaces. Among disinfectants that work against the H1N1 Flu virus, chlorine-based household bleach has been proven to be one of the most effective.

KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE – Chlorine-based bleach (the kind used to sanitize and clean your kitchen) is commonly found in most households. It is also relatively inexpensive, and is safe to use when diluted with water. For example, a solution of 1/3 cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water is effective in killing the H1N1 Flu virus. Chlorine-based bleach can be used to clean and disinfect hard surfaces, such as floors, tables, and countertops. Bleach solutions should be prepared daily, as bleach loses its effectiveness over time. Chlorine-based bleach can also be used to disinfect soft surfaces, such as linens and clothing. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use. Never mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners.

HOME SAFE HOME – Protecting your family against any viral threats is now more important than ever. Be sure to keep your home clean and disinfected. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially before meals and after using the toilet. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of the tissue properly. Stay home when sick to avoid spreading the virus to others. Get plenty of rest, drink lots of fluids, and eat healthy foods to keep your immune system strong. Consult your doctor immediately if you develop flu-like symptoms, such as fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Early detection and treatment can help prevent the spread of the virus to others.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Wikipedia, WHO

99.9% CLEAN
100% PEACE OF MIND

Cleanliness is your family's first line of defense against threats of disease. That's why health experts recommend disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces to prevent the spread of disease-causing germs. And when it comes to deep-down clean and 99.9% germ-kill, use Zonrox Bleach. Keep your family safe and protected with Zonrox Bleach, the nationwide leader in household bleach.

The Most Trusted
Household Bleach
ZONROX BLEACH

super LIFESTYLE
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

2ND BGC ALLEYCAT RACE
PASSIONFEST BGC

Real Thrills!
BPI
FREE 1-hour Executive Aromatherapy Body Massage
The Spa
Enjoy these exclusive pampering treats at The Spa!
BPI EXPRESS CREDIT
Expect more thrills!

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

The animated "Clone Wars" series elaborates on that pivotal period in Star Wars history. Concepts previously unexplored in the films (such as Anakin Skywalker the heretic and undecided alien races choosing sides during the War) are focused on.

Battlestar Galactica

The revived "Battlestar Galactica," which had both cult and TV interrogation about three decades back, reimagines the unpossessed menace of the mechanical Cylons, who successfully annihilate most of the human race.

Defeated, the remaining thousands escape and head off subsequent attacks. The Cylons have evolved to appear like real persons, however, and have infiltrated the ranks of the survivors. The occasionally depressing series is well-written, poignantly illustrating human resilience in the midst of inexpressible adversity.

Finding the human in five space spectacles

To explore galaxies far, far away is to come face to face with all-too-familiar conditions

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit

THE REBOOTED STAR TREK mythology reintroduces decades-old characters, winning over old and new fans with its crafty melding of energetic storytelling and a vibrant young cast.

Invigorated scenes, the space sojourns of Kirk, Spock and the rest of the intrepid crew are expected to examine and explore human allure dynamics further in upcoming sequels.

As in other science fiction-fantasy concepts, the universality of struggle—whether one is human, humanoid or an artificial entity—is a factor that makes these otherworldly conflicts appealing.

The vastness of space provides those larger-than-life beings mystery filled venues to discover and understand. Transformations of the characters are usually provided in the process, giving them—and us—insights into the human condition, aside from flashy spectacles.

Here are five galaxy-spanning scenarios, events and climates, that center on a spectrum of human crisis, in clothes not confined to just one world.

Familiar characters are developed and new characters introduced. It expands on Starfleet's heroism in a way that the prequel films couldn't. There are very few chinks that indicate his eventual downfall, and the growth of his secret romance with Nichelle keeps him away from inner conflict, at least for now.

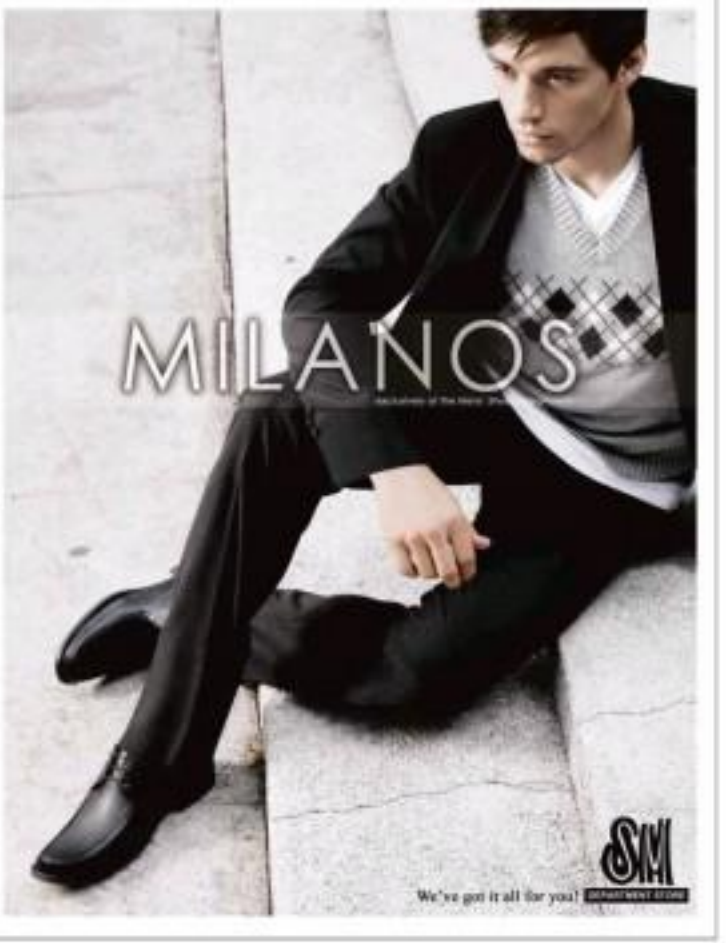
The drama capriciously and insightfully depicts warp-time tribes on a galactic scale.

FINDING ED

Futurama

The cryogenically frozen pizza delivery boy Fry wakes up in a totally changed Earth a thousand years later. He delivers packages to different planets with his co-workers, the cyclopean pilot Leela and snarky robot Bender.

"Futurama," a consistently witty animated series, lasted a few seasons and had a number of straight-to-DVD movie releases. It satirized present-day human behavior and pop culture, among other things.



GARFIELD

B. LIRIN

FUSAO BARDY

DICK TRACY

LOVEHONOTS

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULDOK

BEN

ATOMO AND WEEGY

BIKO MACHINE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Litwin

			9					
			2			5	3	7
	6	1			7			
7								6
	4	6				2	5	
3							8	
			9			3	1	
1	9	5			4			
				2				

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Type and Love of Logic at www.sudoku.com

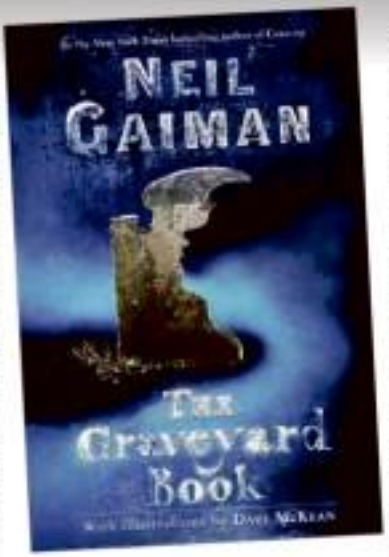
Answers to previous puzzle

4	3	7	1	5	8	2	9	6
5	6	8	3	9	2	1	4	7
1	2	9	7	4	6	3	5	8
2	7	6	4	8	5	9	1	3
3	8	1	2	7	9	6	8	4
9	4	5	6	3	1	7	8	2
7	9	2	8	1	4	8	3	5
6	1	4	5	2	3	8	7	9
8	5	3	9	6	7	4	2	1

Book Review

'Graveyard' shift

By Raul S. De Vera



Coraline' author Neil Gaiman gives us a scintillating book of mystery and action that you can't help but like

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ghosts raise a living child in an old graveyard? I've got the inspirable, Casper The Friendly Ghost-inverse idea that is "The Graveyard Book" by Neil Gaiman (HarperCollins, New York, 2008, 312 pages). Best known for his Sandman graphic novels, Gaiman had previously dabbled in fiction for young readers through the decidedly spooky "Coraline."

With "Graveyard," Gaiman ups the ante by teaming with Sandman cover artist Dave McKean, who provides the black-and-white illustrations. Gaiman also goes for broke with a remarkably dark and textured story of unlimited business.

After a killer known only as Jack wipes out his family, an infant somehow manages to escape by finding his way to the strange old graveyard nearby. There, two ghosts, Mr. and Mrs. Owens, save the child by adopting him, and soon the child—now christened Nobody Owens, find himself—grown up to the graveyard, the only living creature. He is watched over by the enigmatic Silas, who seems to be neither alive nor dead.

Gaiman spends a large, descriptive part of "Graveyard" detailing the quirky world that Bod grows up around, introducing the lovely denizens of the graveyard, including the Roman Caius Pompeius, the scary Slitz and the witch-girl Liza Hempstock. Bod grows to understand that he is safe in the graveyard; yet even as he learns ghost-tricks such as fading (turning invisible) and vorse (haunting/fear), he also begins to embrace different. Bod matures a grudge as his foster for the individual who killed his parents and waits for a chance at vengeance. Meanwhile, Silas continues to learn the mysterious ways of some unknown importance.

The only girl named Scarlett who visits the graveyard and teams with Silas, Bod wants to find out more about the world beyond the graveyard. He even manages to go to school for a bit, but an encounter with the school bullies changes that—with a fatal, if little, ironic part and parcel of the usual young readers' canon, but then we never lack again.

When a confluence of events results in Scarlett's return, Bod is overjoyed—but Jack and the solution organization he represents (what a business Smith they are), is not far behind.

Bod, and everything he owns hold dear, is in danger—and Silas is nowhere to be found. Bod must try to defend the graveyard against a threat greater than just Jack—while hoping Bod Slitz somehow returns in time.

Breathless sprint

The final third of "Graveyard" is an exhilarating, breathless sprint, as Gaiman seamlessly springs Jack within all the set pieces he had hidden in plain sight. Challenged and pressed into action, Bod will discover who he really is, as well as his place in the world—and underworld. The graveyard comes to mean only their kingdom used—the live few—in a way they have never expected. We find out what Silas has been doing all this time, as well as the price he pays for it.

In a marked shift from the moody atmospherics of "Coraline," Gaiman distills "Graveyard" until it is almost entirely action. Something is happening in every scene, on every page, even it's doesn't seem like it.

But Gaiman doesn't skimp on the setting either, striking gloriously Dickensian snippets such as Caius Pompeius and mourning up graveyard lore abound (the dance members) and ghosts (the Honour Guard members) and blends it all into a frothy addictive story.

McKean's shadowy illustrations keep up the mood, but this is clearly Gaiman's show.

The wonder "Graveyard" won the Newbery Medal, distinguishing it as the best children's book in America. This is a scintillating novel that partakes the compelling mystery before jumping headlong into the impossible action, all the while following a likable protagonist with dark humor. It's a book you cannot help but like.

In the end, "The Graveyard Book" is a poignant tale about the truth and the future, because finding your place means that everything changes, something that the two named Nobody and young readers know all too well.

Available in paperback at Fullwood Book Store.

Doctor Who

The British science fiction show aired for decades and was successfully revived and relaunched in 2005.

The enigmatic Doctor is a time traveler who travels across different eras and galaxies with his choice companions. The Doctor's encounters with aliens, authors and eras escalate into adventures that highlight human frailty and heroism.

Consistently imaginative and clever, the show has just concluded its fourth season, and is expected to continue bringing viewers to the most unexpected times and places in the coming years.

Finding the human in five space spectacles

From page B1

Firefly

In the short-lived "Firefly," an eclectic group of space-faring characters dodge and fight the scum of the universe together. The show's engaging cliffs and characters such as government goons and ruthless cannibals. Still and the crazy-stick together despite differences.

The crew is changed forever in the film "Serenity" but the team is stronger. Reunion. The cast on show is notable and the actors really clicked, a rarity of humans pose serious fix-tells. The collision of cultures and distinct characters make this "space western" irresistible and easy to revisit.

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Let's go 'rakenrol!'

MORTAL Jim R.A., Nonoy Pepe Smith and Armand Maniaro

THE RIMAP girls of Rumrajat

A bunch of iconoclasts led by the enduring Pepe Smith heats up this year's Muziklaban

By Katrina Stuart Santiago

YOU DON'T KNOW PEPE Smith?" said you're loved it. No, I'm not talking about his long black Ozzy and Dr. ing in the 60's of Pepe Smith and the Juan Dela Cruz band. (Wouldn't that be fantastic though?)

What I'm talking about is being made to go through a day of surprises, fearing you're just for go and let be "Rakenrol!" as Pepe has tried as countless times.

At the third Metro Base Muziklaban Media Challenge, this was the one thing that rang real and true. Hosting all RMB's 11th Muziklaban, the media challenge began on early in the morning. At 7 a.m., call time, graduates!), with us seeing all the way to RMB's Management Training Center in Tagaytay.

We were told it would be more fun than fearful, but I couldn't help but imagine the worst: seeing some creature I would rather not see and fall in a heartbeat.

Ah, but the truth about surprises is the worst is that you end up telling tales the grandkids. Bakers, of no easy-lakapit Mark, for the three non-athletic fellow girls of Team Lapis, first snatched trying to make an airborne move, ok, girl-literally. So we folded the sleeves of our kaki Muziklaban shirts and kneeled to the water. We were one whole handsome or peasant kneeled). And we decided that we would have fun and not take everything too seriously.

Of course we wanted to win, but, look, we also wanted to enjoy ourselves. We were fleeted the other teams co—down that for team spirit! Faced with challenges that were unfamiliar and therefore difficult, there really was nothing for us to do but have fun.

Try surviving the Bed Frame Jogo on your pig skin, for sure. Or drink up a well-while gathering patience of Muziklaban's orderers (my teammate Nicki was just hilarious and scared poor polars here). How about riding a bike on rough terrain and trying to do a bunny hop (impossible for non-pros, as it turned out). Or trust your teammates and allow yourself to fall backward into their open arms. (The plunge my co-editor Camille took.)

New endorsers

All of these activities were an introduction to the expanded Muziklaban project of RMB. Now tagged as "Pepe at ang Lokomotibo," the event has moved from being just a rock band competition to one that now includes tattoos, extreme sports and indie film-challenges.

The new endorsers include tattoo artist Nicky Bit-Ass (who single-handedly put Pinoy tattoo art on the world map), extreme inline skater Armand Maniaro and indie filmmaker R.A. Rivera (whose most familiar works are the most creative music videos in recent years), alongside legendary rockers Pepe Smith.

All of these, save for Pepe, are a surprise to us: willing here—fitfully at that, and by reputation as an ornery group here. There seems to be a discipline to each individual's craft that requires sobriety and focus. But, said Rocky, "Mga combinasi ka dalawa-tatlong taong nanonood ng pasweldong performance o... as reasons of as malout. Everything is motivation lang."

Spoken like a true Bad Moon Boys' drinker, no? But after spoken like a true artist who knows and acknowledges that creativity is routinely fueled by the high that alcohol brings, so the relationships between the pairs of grilling linked and having some alcohol in one's body.

In individual conversations over beer and cigarettes at the "dirty" area (we weren't that well-behaved that year, it seems) when to see that for all these three young artists, there was nothing remotely about their craft and this endorsement.

When asked about the possible criticism that this was a form of "selling out," Nicky Bit-Ass said, "Bale what's wrong with RMB as a partnership. They weren't even individuals lured to sell something; they were artists collaborating with a brand to promote their own sub-cultures in a wider consciousness.

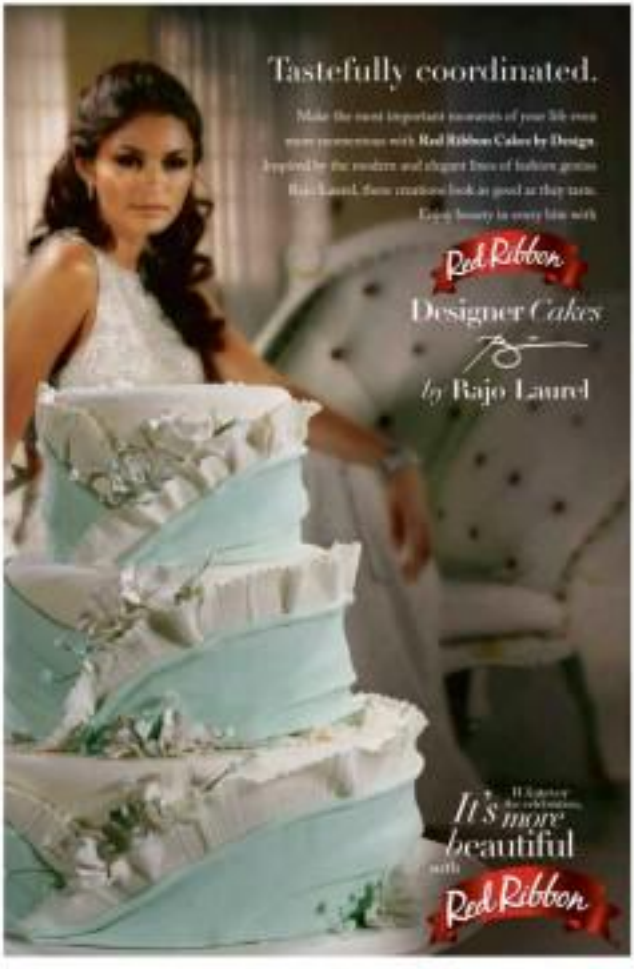
As for as Rocky, Armand and R.A. were concerned, this was about teaming up with the best brand that's part of their lifestyles, and being able to promote their art in the process. It's a win-win situation.

Creative win

Which was true for our White Team, even when we placed last in the race. Because we won the most creative aspect of the competition—the indie film challenge. As R.A. said, our director Enzo Bueffa camera skills were flawless. But there was also the cast of the team, all willing to act out our scenes.

If there was one thing missing in this launch, other than Pepe who supposedly didn't arrive, it was seeing Armand do his thing on a bike. Nicky doing someone's tattoo (I would've volunteered as a guinea pig), and RA doing a film in a video of the days' proceedings.

In the end, this day only fuel Metro's Muziklaban launch was "rakenrol" for contemporary times, as lovefest, lived and created by a young generation of artists—unconventional, irreverent, quirky and unique to their artist self, there is nothing that screams "rakenrol" louder than a bunch of iconoclasts led by Pepe Smith.



Guitar heroes

When you have a guitar emergency, you know who to call—Jugs Jugueta and Kelvin Uy of Guitar 911

By Piero Pastor

TO THE rescue: Jugs Jugueta

WHEN FACING A GUITAR emergency, what number should you call?

0929-6694226. That's the hotline for Guitar 911, a repair and custom shop run by Jugs Jugueta and Kelvin Uy, resident and head guitarist of the band Eraserheads.

Jugueta, who graduated with a Management degree from the Ateneo de Manila University, remembers how hard it was to find a good guitar shop when he was starting to play.

"Back in high school, when I was just learning how to play the guitar, I couldn't find a guitar shop that would fix even the simplest of my guitar problems. I had to go to a Tito who knew a little bit about guitar."

Years later, after their band's success, he and Uy had the chance to start their own guitar repair business when their long-time luthier lost his steady job. Jugueta realized it was a great opportunity.

"I couldn't say no. Plus, I now have a big collection of guitars, so this is the perfect excuse to maintain them."

They first opened shop in February 2008, with people from Philmusic.com as their first clients. Now, Jugueta wants to offer their services to "all musicians from beginners to professionals who play any string instrument."

"We can fix any kind of string instrument, from guitars to ukuleles to bajo de sensa. We do all kinds of repairs, like action/intonation adjustment, circuitry check-up and repair, repainting, nylon-ing, refretting, setup, rebinning, custom pickguard, etc. Anything that you can think of, we can do—as long as it's legal," he said.

Customized guitar jobs

The guitars are repaired by Guitar 911's resident luthier Mang Dave Tasco. Artist Andres Pomallo takes care of the repainting and the customized guitar jobs.

"We specialize in spray guitars," said Jugueta.

Although there are other companies that offer guitar repair services, Jugueta believes what they offer is different.

"We are more affordable than most of the guitar repair shops out there. This is because we want to encourage the kids who want to play to keep playing their guitars. Second, the quality of our workmanship is unmatchable. Our luthier has been doing this since he was young. He sees also personally, trained by the late great luthier, Hardy Diokno. Third, we are located in Kapitolyo, Pasig, which is very accessible."

The feedback has been great so far, with people coming from as far as Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan and Baguio for Guitar 911's services. Some of their clients include Rainstorm, Mhong and Diego of Smallville, Fidon and Chi of Typecast. The of Imago, Neo Rivera, Sammy Asuncion of Pinkpilipinas and Ross Davis of NOAH.

Free service

The other members of Eraserheads have been excited about Jugueta and Uy's business as well.

"They were thrilled, because it was kind-related. We fix Chino's guitars and Buddy's ukulele for free!"

Guitar 911 isn't the gawk's only business. They also run Sobipoc Inc. (www.sobipoc.com), a company that makes stuffed toys, pillows, bags, caps and other corporate giveaways.

Jugueta and Uy are very hands-on when it comes to their business.

"We deal with the clients ourselves. We personally reply to all e-mails, texts and messages to 0278911. We will personally guarantee your satisfaction. We are customer-friendly. If there is a problem, we will fix it for you," said Jugueta.

In the future, they intend to introduce a custom-designed line.

It's clear that Jugueta is enjoying his business. "It doesn't feel like work because I like what I'm doing. Plus, I get to repair my guitars for free!"

Visit www.guitar911.com.ph.

Get that sun-kissed skin

By Bianca Caruncho

THE RAINY SEASON CAME early this year. While some lucky beachcombers were able to catch a few golden rays before the showers, their tans faded faster than they could say "Signal number two."

How can you make your hard-earned beach tan last longer despite the receding rays?

Head to the bottle, says Bobby Carlos. "To extend the life of your tan, you can use self-tanning lotion or go for an airbrush tan or a salon," Carlos says. "Otherwise, you can use bronzing makeup to enhance your sun-kissed skin."

Step 1: Cover the bases

Maybe you went overboard with the facial sunscreen, so your facial skin is several shades lighter than the rest of your body, particularly your shoulders.

Remember that the worst way to rectify the situation is to attempt tanning your face

GETTY IMAGES

ENHANCE your summer skin tone with the right self-tanning lotion.

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Ascott Makati
The A Venue Hotel Subic
Astoria Plaza
The Bellevue Manila
Best Western Hotel La Corona Manila
Casa Bocobo Hotel
Calle Crisologo Cuesta
Century Park Hotel
City Garden Hotel Makati
City Garden Subic
Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila
CSB Hotel
Discovery Suites
Diamond Hotel
Dusit Thani Manila
Edsa Shangri-la Manila
Executive Plaza Hotel
Fersal Hotel
Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
The Heritage Hotel Manila
Holiday Garden Inc Manila
Hotel Kimberly
Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila
Intercontinental Manila
La Fabrica Hotel Manila
Palace Pavilion Hotel
Makati Diamond Residences
Makati Shangri-La
Mandarin Oriental Manila
Manila Pavilion Hotel
Miramar Bay Service Residence
New Horizon Hotel
Oxford Suites Makati Hotel
Palm Plaza Hotel
Pan Pacific Hotel
Parque Espacio Building
The Peninsula Manila
Rembrandt Hotel
Richmonde Hotel
Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila
The Suite Hotel
Travellers International Hotel
Tune Hotel
Victoria Court
Victoria Plaza
Victoria Station
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel
Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao
Westin Philippine Plaza
Wyndham Garden Hotel
Zen Garden Hotel
Zenith Hotel
Zuellig Building
Bayleaf Intramuros
Bayleaf Cebu
Bayleaf Clark
Bayleaf Fort
Bayleaf Intramuros
Bayleaf Manila
Bayleaf Tagaytay
Bayleaf Tower
Bayleaf Tower Cebu
Bayleaf Tower Clark
Bayleaf Tower Fort
Bayleaf Tower Intramuros
Bayleaf Tower Manila
Bayleaf Tower Tagaytay
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Caesar's Coffeeshop at the Makati Palace Hotel

THEIR REPUTATION FOR GREAT food and service at reasonable prices has made this quaint restaurant an institution in the El Burgos, Soria, Since 2002, the Caesars Coffeeshop is truly the place to dine in Makati Palace Hotel!

Making each visit a delightful and satisfying experience is their goal. Both the management and the staff have taken great pride in serving their customers the many years. This pride continues in their commitment to serve mouth-watering meals at reasonable prices - in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Unveiling their new ala carte menu, their illustrious area chef Allan Menghoon personally handpicked, a mouthwatering array of Mediterranean and international favorites due to cure to satisfy one's fancy.

You can't go wrong with starters like pastrissio al gambert, gulf shrimp cocktail or aubergine pasta like spaghetti vongole and pasta salmone. Check out the menu and see the wide variety of choices available for your dining pleasure. Choices range from the ever popular serve-into-style fried chicken to brasiola di manzo con salsa di peppercorn and their signature bistiko al funcik.

Call 870-0344 for reservations.

FETTUCCINI gamberetti

FILLET mignon

ABSBC PARTNERS WITH MICROTEL

Asean, the world's largest student run organization in partnership with Microtel and Subic Development Corporation is hosting its National Conference on May 23 to 28. Focused on providing a platform for youth leadership development, Asean offers young people the opportunity to discuss and develop their potential as it have a positive impact on society. Governor Mel Alejandrino's regional director Rodel A. Jordan (right) with Asean's organizing committee president for the conference, Rachelle Dela E. Gutierrez.

INDONESIAN FOOD PROMO AT THE HERITAGE

Red restaurant offers delicate flowers of white asparagus

A TREAT CONSIDERED BY MANY A DELICACY. The much-anticipated "vegetable of kings" will soon be in season again. From the May 4 to 24, Red of Makati Shangri-La will be serving Germany's most prized edible ivory, white asparagus. The bundles of white asparagus served at Red are of best quality in terms of taste, freshness and appearance – each carefully selected and hand-picked before it reaches your plate. It is prepared and cooked so delicately that you will have no trouble cutting through its soft, velvety texture with just your fork. Experience the refined taste and mild flavor of these tasted treasures with Red's special white asparagus. It is set to menu revival for both lunch and dinner. The menu includes culinary forward creations such as warm white asparagus and 36 grains tenderloin, grilled white asparagus with Tasmanian salmon, white asparagus and pan roasted sea bass, grilled marinated white asparagus and salad of caramelized white asparagus and beetroot. The white asparagus for carte menu is available for a limited time only, so make your reservations now. For inquiries and reservations, please call the restaurant reservations and information centre at 813 8888 ext. 7188/7189.

KAPATID AWARDS CENTURY PARK HOTEL

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THE SAN ENTOY FREEDOM SAY, JUNE 13, AND MACH RENEWS EXTRENTS. Day June 1-6. Stay on a weekend making it the perfect break. For all weekends or June take advantage of this half by checking in for two consecutive nights, Friday-Saturday or Saturday-Sunday, and get a 50 percent discount on your second night, all inclusive of daily breakfast for two. Available for only P5,326++ for a de-luxe room and P5,900++ for a 1-bedroom suite. For inquiries and reservations please call the Tagaytay reservation office at (+632) 564-4111, 564-4150, (0405) 483-0111, 483-0813 or (7) mobile (0922) 834-8813, or e-mail gmtthemidagaytay@yahoo.com.

Forget your worries at Sunrise Holiday Mansion

LOCATED ON A BEAUTIFULLY landscaped property, Sunrise Holiday Mansion complements the crisp, cool climate and clean air of Tagaytay de Huantan's Holiday Mansion, possibilities are limitless, making it an affordable weekend getaway for most Filipinos.

Sunrise Holiday Mansion is a timeless-room inspired hotel, with a poolside bar, cascading waterfalls, farms, and fitness center rounding out the hotel experience. Both business and leisure travelers will find accommodations that are spacious and comfortable, combined with its impeccable service and attentive staff. The hotel consists of deluxe, junior and executive suites, ranging to the different needs of individuals, groups and families.

For bookings, contact the following: Sunrise Holiday Mansion Hotel, 896-4373, (046)413-2306; 413-2833; telefax (046)413-2834; Manila office: 526-3002 to 04; 435-7888 to 88 loc. 30/55; direct line: 636-1127 or visit www.sunrise.com.ph.

Hotel Alpha
Hotel Celestina
Hotel Elizabeth
Hotel Nueva
Hotel Del Rio
Hotel Kimberly
Hotel La Corona de Lipa
Hotel Sabrina de Vigan
Ayuntamiento Hotel
Microtel Inn & Suites
La Playa Roca Hotel & Restaurant
La Loma Country Resort Hotel Inc
Legenda Hotel
The Lighthouse Marina Resort
Mallberry Suites Business Hotel
Nampo Island Resort

Get that sun-kissed skin

Make your hard-earned beach tan last longer despite the receding rays

From page E1

to the same shade without sunscreen, since facial skin is more easily damaged. Instead, darker undertones must be worn out your skin tone, and use a darker shade of foundation to compensate for the difference.

"The ideal color is usually three shades darker than your natural foundation," Carlos says. "Otherwise, look for one that's closest to your tan."

Step 2: Go metallic

To look like a bronzed goddess, you'll literally have to bronze your self with metallic makeup.

"Metallic colors bring out a slight drama and are perfect for bronzing your skin," Carlos shares. "Aside from the usual gold, copper and bronze, try silver—you'll be surprised at how much it brings out the dark tones in your skin."

Make sure to blend well with subtle matte colors such as light browns or a neutral shimmery pink, so you won't look like a homeless robot.

Step 3: Make it natural

To complement your golden hue, look for cheek color that blends seamlessly with your skin. Pink isn't exactly the most natural hue for bronzed skin, so use earth tones.

"For a natural flush, stick to orange, peach or terracotta browns," Carlos advises. "Pink is usually used sparsely, so it doesn't match the warmth of bronzed skin."

Step 4: Avoid strong lipstick

When you're tanned, your skin should be the main focus. Don't try to take the attention away from clear, golden-hued skin by applying strong colors to your face.

Skip the matte-red lipstick and pale pink lip gloss and stick on clear lipbalm (if your lips are naturally rosy), or apply neutral-toned lipstick or gloss.

"A hint of gloss mimics the natural shine of your lips," says Carlos.

E-mail the author at lancelot@yahoo.com

FAT ON BRONZER and shimmery brown eyeshadow to bring out your sun-kissed color: Try L'Oreal Star Secrets Color Appeal Quad and The Body Shop Bronzer.

USE MODELCO'S Tan Extender to enhance your sun-kissed skin.

Shades that suit you cool or sunny: Lolibri lush lipstick with a tan. We like The Body Shop Shea Lip Lustres.

Tours, Leisure & Chow

SICILIAN NIGHT AT TRADERS HOTEL

Incantation of "Tuscan Mouth: Rise up, Tuscan ass!" the Italian restaurant under Filippino and the Confederation of Italy recently hosted a "Sicilian Night" featuring the Maggio Isle Sweet Group of Traders Hotel Manila's Culinary Ballroom. The event was co-presented by Paparazzi at Glass Shangri-La, Caffe de Wines and Traders Hotel Manila. Shown are (from left): H.E. Amb. Roberto Fabbri, Embassy of Italy; Mrs. Fabbri Mandolesi, wife of the Ambassador of Finland; Mrs. Martina Cox Isle, wife of the Ambassador of Malta; Mrs. Cristina Fabbri, wife of the Ambassador of Italy; Mr. Andrea Barontini, general manager, Traders Hotel Manila and H.E. Amb. Fabbri Mandolesi, Embassy of Italy. For room reservations, call (02) 0917-1011 local 7000 or send save-mail to reservations.thm@shangri-la.com.

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Great moments at The Bellevue

BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON TAKES OVER, EXPERIENCE THE LAST hoorah of summer with a sizzling grilled treat from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Bellevue's poolside. For the whole month of May, savor the outdoor bar with your family and friends as you relish the best of American savory food with jazz grilled favorites such as beef burger patties with mushroom gravy in bun, American beef hank with mustard and pickles in bun, salmon peppercorn sauce and prawns with garlic butter. What a best way to end summer than with a refreshing dip in the pool and a taste of great wonder' classics—but off the grill, only at The Bellevue's poolside. Hang out and spend your evenings relaxing at the hottest hotspot south of the metro. The Bellevue Hotel's pool: 28/30 Bar. Bring your friends for an exciting evening of bonding and get together as you try the bar's stimulating Cruzan Sherbets and Ice Cream, available for the whole month of May. Experience thrilling sensations as you try the drink's unique concoction of Almond vodka, bourbon, Jack Daniel, Stirley's, dark rum as warm tequila perfectly mixed with the delightful flavors of hot and ice cream. Order a scoop or two and find out how it feels to have the sweet flavor of the cold dessert and exotic alcoholic taste on your tongue both at the same time. Then, party all night long as you enjoy the bar's happy hour. With cold local beers, fine wines and spirits at half its price, daily from 5 to 8 p.m., enjoy good times, great vibes and exhilarating new experiences only at The 28/30 Bar. Enjoy great moments only at the most happening destination south of the metro, The Bellevue Hotel. For inquiries, call 771-0181.

Filipino High Tea

SPEND A DELIGHTFUL AFTERnoon with family and friends at Ivee Continental Manila's Gerbera Bar. From 2 p.m. onwards each day, Filipino High Tea is offered. At just ₱500 per person, enjoy freshly baked bibingka, ensaymada and mangga at Lemon with ice! Sample blends of native tea, coffee or chocolate. Live piano music adds to the easy-going ambiance. For reservations, call 706-7888.

Puerto del Sol, the ideal family vacation for all time

LOCATED IN THE PICTURESQUE CAMPUS and culturally abundant town of Bolinao in Pangasinan, Puerto del Sol, known as the Jewel of the South, is a highly exclusive and uniquely inspired seaside resort which offers elegant suites and homes to travellers and visitors who simply want to get away from it all.

This sprawling 10,000 square meter resort has many function rooms perfect for small gatherings or huge conferences dubbed as the Salitas and the Riviera. Nature del Sol's addition to its Cluster 2 of the Mansion Villas include Mansion Villa 2 in a modern setting, Mansion Villa 3, a family suite and Mansion Villa 4 with bathtub and indoor/outdoor landscape.

Puerto del Sol's amenities include a bar, pool at the center of the resort surrounded by manicured gardens, a jacuzzi, a children's pool, a bay a restaurant, game room and recreational facilities. The resort has also put up spa services from the newly renovated spa huts and a pastry shop flowing with native delicacies and international favorites.

For more inquiries and reservations, call 633-2347 or 631-2861, visit www.puertodelsol.com.ph.

Century's Bar · Mag Lia · DOME · Museum Cafe · Diego's Original La Taberna · The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf · The Old Spaghetti Factory · Greenbelt Boulevard Residences · Burger King · Bo Kut Teh Corner Restaurant & Bar · KFC Luneng Bahay Restaurant · Ilang-Ilang · Nasrus Restaurant · Leslie's Restaurante · Ming Island · Ma. Cristina Restaurant · Chelsea Market & Cafe · Nando Park · Mandarin Oriental Manila · Magnolia Ice Cream House · Jollibee

Save the earth!

10 easy ways to reduce your carbon footprints

By Beatriz Osmeña

1. USE CANVAS BAGS

Many stores now are selling inexpensive shopping bags made of canvas that you can easily fold and slip in your purse, so you don't need to burden yourself carrying a paper or plastic bag. You can get them plain or with cute graphic designs.

2. SHOP LOCAL

From clothes and accessories to fruits and vegetables, imported products involve the use of great amounts of energy. Aside from saving energy, buying local goods would help support local businesses.

3. LESSEN THE ANXIETY BY BUYING ORGANIC

By buying organic products, you know what your body receives is all-natural, and many locally made organic products come at affordable prices.

4. GO VEGETARIAN FOR A DAY

The food industry is one of the most energy consuming industries today. Going for vegetarian options is an easy & healthy way to reduce your carbon footprints. Vegetarian options tend to be affordable as well. By-devoting just one day a week to eating vegetarian can make a big difference.

5. COMMUTE OR CARPOOL

There are LRT and MRT stations conveniently close to schools. The same go through the same schedules every week, so one more person in the train doesn't add or subtract to the amount of energy consumed to maintain their schedules. We can also join a carpool, the best way to cut down on fuel consumption and make new friends.

6. UNPLUG THOSE CHARGERS OR USE A POWER STRIP/OK

It may be convenient to have your cell phone charger constantly plugged into the outlet next to your bed, but keep in mind that whether it's your second to your cellphone or not, it is still consuming energy and raising that migraine-causing electric bill. Or use a power switch to plug in all your gadgets so you can just switch off once you are done charging.

7. TAKE A DIP IN THE POOL

Summer means oppressive heat. Put instead of making excuses for indoors with the air-conditioning forever on, try making swimming plans with friends. You'll be getting that golden summer glow and exercising at the same time.

8. BRING A BAG IT!

Bringing your own food to school is a simple and cheap way to reduce your carbon footprints. Brass-pin-cheard food needs to be separated. If you like to eat your lunch nice and hot from the cafeteria, bring your own container and utensils for the food.

9. RECYCLE YOUR OLD MATES

You can cut up your old mates and re-use the clean mts. Buy padding glue at your closest office supply store and you can stick down together into a cover, sturdy stand notepad.

10. SPREAD THE WORD

The best way to save the earth is by getting other people involved. No one likes to hear a self-righteous preacher though; don't say it, demonstrate it! Suggest a carpool when you plan on going out with your friends, remind them to switch their lights out when you're about to head out, offer the use of your reusable bag when we shopping. Little things done everyday can make a big difference!

For more information on 8 shortcuts and ways to recycle, visit G/F Serendra Plaza, McKinley Parkway, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig; Opens 12 noon to 10 p.m. daily; tel. no. (632) 843-3465; info@lunyk.mercy@gmail.com.

It's All About Living the Good Life... At the New Eastwood Mall

There are little triumphs everyday. Whether it be swapping your dream pair of shoes at 90s percent discount, or sending off your child on his first school day, these little occasions need to be celebrated.

Decades ago perhaps people would go to the park to celebrate these moments. But right now, malls have snatched the title of being the perfect celebration spot, for families and friends. Because of that, malls have become a dime a dozen. There's one on every corner, like a neighborhood sari-sari store. Every mall offers the same experience, same shops, same restaurants, and even the same entertainment design.

But there's one mall in Libis, Quezon City, that has been getting much attention of late given that its upscale and trendy design, distinct shop mix, new concept restaurants, and world-class service standards. We new Eastwood Mall.

The Eastwood Mall opened last November, right at the heart of the Eastwood City Cyberpark. The new multi-storey commercial building boasts of a sleek and modern architecture, exuding an understated elegance. Lying beside the "older" and Maslow-na, new-themed City Walk 1 and 2, the opening of the full scale Eastwood Mall extends the Eastwood City experience, providing the habitat two distinct worlds in one place. From the City Walk where everything is fast paced and colorful, to the Eastwood Mall with its serene environment and somewhat cool.

Modern but elegant

Setting the difference from other malls, the Eastwood Mall has generous hallways to provide more room for shoppers. The interiors of the mall and each shop has been designed to match world-class standards.

The three new cinemas, for one, are bringing the movie viewing experience to its summit. The architecture of the cinemas and equipment are truly a match with international standards.

The Eastwood Cinemax flagship theater, the **Ultra 7 Cinema** with a 40-seating capacity, features the country's first twin recliner seats. Viewers will be welcomed with changing lights of purple, green, and orange at the entrance of the cinema lounge. The experience continues as they enter the elegant cinema lounges, which sort of a big club-like ambience. There's also refillable popcorn and bottomless drinks delivered to the viewers' seats by personal butlers.

Another intriguing food find in town are the Flying Pig and Rice Fish, of Chef Peter Ayson, and restaurateur Raymund Magpayo of Red Crab. Flying Pig is a French-Asian fusion Cantonese's haven while Rice Fish, goes a bit lighter on its menu. Thousand Cranes on the other hand, allows one to be his own personal chef with its sheabu-shabu style dining concept.

A Foodies' Haven

No celebration is complete without good food. The Eastwood Mall Veranda at the ground and second floor of the mall offer a variety of fine dining choices.

What more, foodies might just have that chance to meet their idols as the chefs of the restaurants usually hang out their restaurants at the Eastwood Mall, ready to give recommendations, and offer a bite or two, as well.

Recently opened is Chef Nonoy Gaerlan's Cyma, located on the second floor Eastwood Mall Veranda and Chef Fern Aseoane and Erik Cuan's **My Thai**, located at the ground floor, right beside the entrance of the mall. Gyu-Kaku a month old is **Stone Grill by House of Wagyu**, where wagyu steaks are served in special square shaped volcanic rocks for added flavor.

On the other hand, **Buenisimo**, by **Café Ysabel**, with Chef Gino Gonzales at its helm, has been getting its share of local customers since it opened with its modern, unique, eat-standing style in the unique taste that its follow-ers loved ever since. Giving a unique twist to the Filipino dishes that once have grown accustomed to is **Cravings** by Chef Florabel Co, offering turn of the century Filipino cuisines.

Also at the Eastwood Mall Veranda is dessert shop Red Mango which have been giving the healthy eating a whole new meaning.

Shopping Destination

Eastwood Mall is also a fashion canvas with the unique mix of top international brands, most loved local ones, and new concept shops. World-renowned brands such as Kenneth Cole, Steve Madden, Lacoste, Levi's Kiehl's, Charles and Keith, and Giordano, Penshoppe, line up the ground and second floors of the mall.

Recently opened are favorite stores of Make Room for More, Aussie re-vamp, Ito A, Shop, Toytown's super store, and everyone's favorite bookstore, Fully Booked. Also found at the mall are local brands such as Folded and Hung, Stars, and Medalya, and the newest ones such as fashion bloc Haus, RAF by Pierre and Frieda, and the couple-themed store Me and U.

Eastwood Mall also houses the ones in shop concept. Old Designers' Shop that has brands such as Diesel, Guess, Ted's, Dunhill, Kate Spade, among others, under 5. There are also Kidz Wear, Pampanga's Kids, Personality Jump, and Basement Bang up the Bird Nest, home improvement shops such as Do It Yourself and home essentials store Kitchenworld, complete the family shopping trip at Eastwood Mall.

So if you want to celebrate your triumphs with your friends, make your next date especially at the Eastwood Mall. Get the best of all worlds whether it be in shopping, dining, or movie viewing, or to get superior world class service.

E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (C6), Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City • Mall Hours: Sun-Thur 11:00am to 10:00pm; Fri & Sat 11:00am to 11:00pm

EASTWOOD MALL

super LIFESTYLE

THUNDER ROAD

James Gabrillo

Facebook: the last free show in town

It's where a relationship is validated, or otherwise, by simply changing a 'Status'

NOT THAT YOU noticed, but I'm here to tell you this once upon a time, in cyberspace, an acquaintance discovered that his relationship with his girlfriend ended.

They were together for almost three years—until two weeks ago, when the girl decided to change her relationship status on Facebook from "In A Relationship with [Ex]" to "Single," in full view of about 1000 of their combined friends and hundreds of other friends of friends.

That she did without telling her boyfriend beforehand, is cold.

My acquaintance found out he was dumped when his answering machine at work played a message from his ex-girlfriend, telling him to check his Facebook account.

He was crushed, but he managed to be composed on Facebook, talked to him after class, asking if he was okay, you know, after the breakup. My acquaintance considered calm, took out his mobile phone, and set out to find out what was happening.

"Did you break up with me?" he asked his girlfriend via text. After she refused to answer his calls.

"Yes," she replied back.

All my acquaintance could do was allow three words emitted in capsule molecules, somnambulant and mordid, all at the same time, #### the hell.

The funny thing was, before a social networking site united the fate of their relationship, my acquaintance didn't see any sign that things were going bad for the two of them.

Until a few days ago, when I set out to research for this article my editors assigned to me. I have never spoken more than 1,000 words to that guy, but we have never met even once in our friendship.

Portal to the soul

But on some level I know these people intimately. They place their profile, personal info, relationship status, life updates online and open them up for the world to see. And a status—100 characters, sometimes—can be limited makeup, as potential to boost and diss, in terrible of particulars, is nothing if not a portal to the soul.

Here's another: One fateful afternoon, a co-worker's close friend and his fiancée called their engagement off, but decided not to tell anyone about it first. That same night, the guy wouldn't help but suddenly delete his "Engaged to a" Relationship Status on Facebook.

I say suddenly because he had no idea that editing his status would alert stalkers tendency status telegram to the universe announcing that HEY, I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED ANYTIME SOON.

His phone, and his social, wouldn't stop ringing for the next few days—check-in-on friends, colleagues, parents, all asking what the hell happened.

I don't know much about those people, but through Facebook, I feel as if I've entered their homes, touched their countertops and peeked inside their bedroom closets. I don't know why I continue to surf and read, only that I can't remember a time when those personal details of strangers didn't fascinate me.

Facebook's newest feed application, which allows you to read through your friends' updates, is a form of minimalist amusement, a movie we can virtually create. But it's more than that. It's also a slightly creepy habit we have no interest in breaking.

With each new day comes new strangers that we read in our minds as if they were celebrities. The very next he drops their day but we still log it up. Relationship Status: Single. Interested In: Women. Looking for: Networking. Political Views: Democrat. Religious Views: Pentecostal.

Awesome. Two thumbs up. How this is a real comment.

Second life

I've met more people who spend more time on Facebook than they do outside their house, people who know more online strangers than real-life friends. When a social networking site stops being about networking and becomes a form of life on its own, the soul's very own energy succumbs to reading about other people's perpetual stall, well, truth.

No matter what, in Facebook, we all just have to look. Even after a hundred times, you still haven't gotten enough. It's the last free show in town.

A social networking site has turned into our second lives. When before, it was merely an edited collection of our real lives, today it encroaches on the most private bits of our private lives. A virtual space where the most personal thoughts are carelessly declared to the world. Where a relationship is validated, or otherwise, by simply changing a status.

"When you get past the voyeurism and the envy," a friend told me while I was in the middle of writing this piece, "when the dimensions of Facebook's browser become less important than the dimensions of your imagination, that's when all of it comes to the fore."

So at least we can tell our selves that. Two days ago, while walking on a path, you heard

"To grow you something to live for," she said. "It tells you that anything is possible."

I smiled and nodded, and we stood together under a shaft of light and talked about the beauty of the trees, the peacefulness of the street, and the crisp sunniness of the day.

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Fight to the finish —online

Gamers stage a showdown for fun, glory and a generous cash prize

Text and photos by Jed-Angelo Q. Segovia

WE PARKED THE CAR IN A DARK, creepy alley behind McDonald's Taft, and walked to where the tournament was being held: Graffi High, a game place in University Mall, Taft Avenue, frequented by La Salle students during hectic school days.

Having caught wind of a classic Fighter IV tournament last May 2, fellow writer-gamer Martin and I met at his Kalesita place to drive there. The tournament would start at 12 noon, and Martin wanted an early start, since he'd be joining. I was just there to scope it out; my gaming skills weren't exactly on par to compete.

Street Fighter IV (SF IV) is the latest in a series of beloved fighting games released by Capcom Entertainment. When SF IV was released last February, it was an instant hit among gamers everywhere. A tournament held in the Philippines was a logical next step.

At the University Mall, I got the sense that I had stalled into an actual underground street fighting venue. The place was dingy and a bit scary, but Martin, a College of Saint Benilde alumnus, calmed my fears. "I've been playing games here since college. It's safe," he said.

Tenders

We climbed to the second floor and were greeted by the sight of Graffi High. It looked like a tanker's late dark blue lights, loud electronic sounds, and a sizable number of participants already milling about.

Ahead of me, a few outsiders played a round of Rock Band. To my left, the organizers were setting up Playstation 3s on a huge plasma screen TV. The organizers were boyfriend and girlfriend tandem Melvin "Mel" Mayen, 25, and Jhelba Barros, 21, who shared that Mel was one of the first to own a copy of SF IV.

"We always play here," Jhelba said over the hubbub, "so Mel thought of hosting a tournament here, because this is a gaming hub."

The registration fee of P1,000 per entrant would go to the prize money pot. Additionally, the enrollment of the tournament were double-elimination—each player would play the best of three games, and each eliminated player would then move on to a "loser's bracket."

"We don't know who the top players in the country are, so this [tournament] is a step to find out," said Mel. Looking at the crowd, full of hunky-to-pasty dudes, sporting long hair, goatees or oversized shirts, I wondered if I was indeed looking at a gathering of some of the country's top fighters.

Some participants had brought their own equipment. One of them was Jeff, who was carrying a huge button-bedecked box that looked like he ripped it off an actual arcade pod. He attached it to the Playstation 3 and proceeded to beat up his rival opponent. A third play swung on the pod, which lit orange and new to me. I ended up losing both demo rounds to a random player, and re-filed himself (who humbly said he wasn't that good a player).

Then, I spotted something curious: A buff, tattooed gym guy bashing among the crowd of geeks. A real street fighter?

With a thirty-five player tourney, it was going to be a long day. The finalized roster would ensure that the most skilled player would win a top price of P7,000. Pretty good cash for a video game tournament.

Girlfriends

There were a few girls, too. Concurrent "No," said one shaky "Boyfriend ko, si Jerry, ang cameraman."

Sure enough, several guys brought their girlfriends along. I overheard the buff, tattooed guy coach to the background, "Tinuruan ako ni mga nag-alaga ng girlfriend, pero ang sa 'kin ano?"

At 1:50 p.m., the matches started. Only the participants were allowed inside the place. The other participants watched outside through the windows, and hooted and cheered the competitors.

Those guys were hardcore. They applauded spectacularly timed moves like a well-placed uppercut, or jeered at failed strategies like a missed zigzag move. As the tournament progressed, I realize that true euphoria of spectator sports was not limited to real-world competitions. There's Arsenio and Las Vegas, and then there's Graffi High.

A skinny guy named Joshua was called out. Amusingly, his opponent was Bed Tattooed Guy. Adding a layer of cluelessness drama was the fact that Joshua is Jerry's brother. He would be facing the guy who jeered people like his brother who brought girlfriends.

They took the controls, settled in their seats, and chose the same characters—Ryu. This was going to be concise-ing.

Right away, it was obvious Joshua was the better Ryu handler. He delivered a flurry of punches and kicks. BTG was no slouch, countering with attacks of his own, but Joshua dominates him with confidence-ing Zen. Game over, BTG nodded and, like a real sportsman, shook Joshua's hand. "Good game."

As the day dragged on and competitors got eliminated, Martin provided a running commentary to the crowd watching. "Short Ay, pampit yun, no par!"

One particular match between fighters Angiel and Shinto had the crowd mesmerized. Both handlers were good players, matching each other with strategies and timing. Both were down to their life bar's last millimeters, and when one pulled a surprising save, feint, and spectacular finisher, the crowd erupted in awe. "OOOOOOOH!!!"

A tall, lanky guy named Edward was standing outside, shaking his head. "I'm not playing", he said, "I'll lose! Those guys play ten hours a day. I have work. I'm just here to support Jeff." I look at his arms. Sabagis, he was carrying Jeff's arcade pad.

Cursaderie

Martin retired to a bench after his own round. He didn't win the tournament, but he was happy to have participated.

"This is a place to show off, and meet new friends," he said.

Among the crowd, the participants exchanged game tips, strategies and combos. There was a real sense of camaraderie among these guys. And adrenaline. One watched through the glass as the [illegible] who lost him were over another challenger. "[illegible] guy, pating ng kalaban! Ay, ibang mundo ito! Isang tournament, I'm not informed!"

Inside the blue-lit room, lit spasmodically by flashes of fireballs and body shots, a group of girls played Rock Band, singing "Eye of the Tiger," entranced by the rowdy tournament behind them.

I was exhausted from the coverage, but the [illegible] guys were unbelievable. They were full of fire and gusto, throwing their voices and [illegible] as they watched their brothers in arms beat each other down in electronic fury—the stamina [illegible] from hours of mastering this game.

In the end, the P7,000 was won by a [illegible] named Raymond. Ned himself made it to third [illegible] with a P1,000 cash prize.

"If it's successful," Ned had said earlier, "We [illegible] be held tournaments quarterly."

Call them what you want. Geeks. Nerds. Those [illegible] for remember, when you face them in their ring, they have a street fighter standing up to the challenge any trick. And they play with the eye of the tiger.

Visit http://gfightphilippines.multiply.com for tournament details and results. Buff up those [illegible] and opponable thumbs for the next big tourney!

Trouble in Twitter

Unexpected changes are causing users to, well, twit the system

By Bianca Consunji

READ ANYTHING INTERESTING today? Maybe you heard the news from a little birdie—or a "Tweet," as Twitter.com's short messages are called.

While Twitter probably isn't going to eclipse Facebook's popularity anytime soon, the social network/news source is steadily gaining popularity around the world.

However, changes made to the Twitter system last week caused enraged (and confused) users to post a flurry of Tweets about them.

"Facepalm" and "TwitterFAIL" became trending topics on the site as users complained about the change to the @reply option, which no longer allowed people to view replies from Twitter users they didn't follow.

At the start, Twitter had a set of three options for the site's public reply feature: You could see replies to and from people you follow, from the users you follow to everyone they send replies to, or you could choose to see every reply on all.

Thus, people could choose how much they wanted to see—if they really wanted to eavesdrop on conversations of people they may or may not have known.

Last week, Twitter simply set the first option as the default. While it was a welcome change for some (parents, particularly those who didn't see the site's update on their Twitter feed, it made Twitter simply just...boring to others.

TWITTER users protested the changes to the @reply setting, forcing developers to take a second look at the modifications.

It was harder for users to discover new users, especially if they were accustomed to adding new people to follow by seeing their friends reply to them via the @reply option.

The unexpected backlash prompted Twitter to immediately modify some of the changes and return the much-missed @reply option.

On the Twitter blog, developers said, "Folks loved this feature because it allowed them to discover new people and participate serendipitously in various conversations. The problem with the setting was that it didn't scale and, even if we rebuilt it, the feature was bloat."

They added, "We're making a change such that any updates beginning with @username (that are not explicitly created by clicking on the reply icon) will be seen by everyone following that account."

So for the moment, it's business as usual for [illegible] Twitter users. Those in more-or-less [illegible] most popular [illegible] Twitter about the Davids [illegible] ort, Alec Baldwin, the book Mockingjay and [illegible] Kho and his various scandals.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

How to break up with poise—and keep all the gifts

While no one wants to hear "I can't stand being with you anymore," the classic "It's me, not you" isn't an improvement, either

By Tasie Yang

WHEN IT COMES TO BREAKUP etiquette, I don't think Emily Post came out with a book on that. There are no hard and fast rules on how it should be done, but somehow, we do know what's horrifying or just plain wrong.

If we are to believe Angela Bofill, the news should be broken gently. In that all? Based on stories I've been told by friends, I've compiled some do's and don'ts on how to break up without leaving behind major disaster sites.

Rule # 1: Be clear and upfront

Looking to end a long-distance relationship? Hint, hint: the communication option that has the clearest connection. Nothing spells disaster than a choppy call, where you can't understand what the other is saying ("It's not working out." "What? You joined a gym, honey?" "No, no, I think we should end this." "What? What? I'm losing you." "Really? You're relieved you feel the same.").

If you're doing the breaking up, be the one to pay for the call. Avoid splitting up via webcam (if you're not one a high-speed Internet connection, freezing your future ex's face droppily emerging into exes is not a nice image to have).

Breaking up via SMS? By all that's holy, do not punctuate your conversation with expletives and ellipses to denote silence. There is no appropriate yellow emoticon that says "I'm so sorry I'm dumping you and making you vulnerable."

Rule # 2: KISS—Keep It Simple, Stupid

Platitudes and lilts reassuring only make the dumpee feel foolish, on top of heartbroken. While no one wants to hear "I can't stand being with you anymore," "I want to find myself" or the classic "It's me, not you" aren't improvements, either. Be honest, but don't be insensitive about it. A breakup is the end of a relationship, not an attack on one's character or a recitation of one's failures and shortcomings.

Rule # 3: Make it quick

If you haven't been feeling the love for quite some time, don't prolong it because either you've been together for so long that you just don't catch a cause to throw away, or you want to wait it out until your future ex initiates the ending. The longer you stay in a relationship that's not working, the more resentful and bitter you'll be after the fallout.

Rule # 4: Mind the date

Be mindful of the breakup date. Avoid Valentine's (cruel), his or her birthday (are you kidding me?!) and Christmas (higher suicide rates, let's not risk it, shall we?).

Optimal days could be the date leading up to the New Year (fresh start!), Holy Week (for introspection and soul-searching) or Halloween (trick or treat!). Be a pundit and do not break up with your future ex before Bards (if dating a student), before a major operation (if dating a doctor) or before an election night (if dating a brainy/geeky lush, like you'll break up with her).

Rule # 5: Synchronize it

You've prepped your respective blurbs/Facebook/online presence pages with photos of your blanket cuddlebuns. With the breakup, it's all gone to pot, with all SO-phat of your contacts learning that you are now "Single," with that matching bride and broken heart-doll to the entertainment. Do make it a point to change your Facebook status together. Make it your last bittersweet act as a couple. That way, you'll get equal amounts of sympathy and consternation from your common friends.

Rule # 6: No hitting below the belt

While the survivors of a romantic meltdown are understandably bitter for weeks on end, I think I speak for all supportive friends around the world when we request that you keep the potshots above the belt.

Please don't tell us about the weird things he or she liked in the bedroom that you had to tolerate, as part of your bonding catharsis. Her code do we get mental image of/not us, we don get an image of you with your ex doing the weird thing. Now you've just scarred your friends for life. If you must get it out of your chest, don't forget to ply us with copious amounts of alcohol first.

Rule # 7: If you've got it, don't flaunt it

Once the breakup pact has been faxed, the race to who gets coupled-up first begins. If you're the winner, be a bigger person and give your ex-friends up before he or she forces it from the walls of the restaurant you frequent.

Also, given that you're feeling all giddy and in love again, do keep the new public, online declaration of love to a minimum, especially if the time between your ex and your current is short—less than the incubation period of the H1N1 virus. Lastly, make sure to change your pet name for the new one, as using the same one is just tacky.

Rule # 8: Stay away from each other—for now

You can't be friends right away—not as long as either one of you have feelings for each other. You'll just end up having a hard time getting over the entanglement and going into a "friends with benefits" zone. The platonic phase will only be reached once you've lost the urge to go at each other like Bruno Mars in upright bar.

Rule # 9: Clarify the "return and exchange" policy

The longer a relationship, the more gift-giving occasions you have between each other. What to do with the spoils of war? Anything that can be categorized under "May bibi you ko ibe ano mo day"—made photographs and scrapbooking videos—should preferably be destroyed in front of you both. Be not, under any circumstances, leave those with the more bitter one.

Speaking as a material girl, I say that any jewelry, gadgets and designer handbags should remain in the sole, exclusive property of the receiver. There is no sentimentality or any painful reminders on the face of Vuitton, Clothing and apparel should also remain with the receiver, for hygiene purposes.

LONG Island's signature bowls with Italian musings

CHOOSE pizza or chicken as an entrée for your pasta.

CARBO-LOADING with hungarian sausage pasta

MOUTH-WATERING garlic-ilan cheesy lasagna

CLASSIC portobello pasta

Long Island

Food stall at the left side of the Main Library Bldg., Ecostalic Hall, cor. Apacible St., Diliman, QC

Hmmm, What Do We Have Here?: Italian

Simply the Best: Pasta with Pesto, Alfredo or Mushroom Sauce, Gorgonzola (Blue Cheese) Pizza and Mini Chocolate ice cream.

The Verdict: Their pizzas have the thinnest crust I have ever seen, and apart from the Gorgonzola pizza, the crust of their pizzas

THIS has the thinnest pizza crust! Quattro formaggi pizza

from the past, the cacophonia of voices humming through the day at sunset, and the cozy, laidback ambiance of a dining room and restaurants of a home cooked meal. Good food, to be poetic about it, is the elixir of life.

With good food comes great company and unforgettable memories, and so we decided to look for new and exciting places for you to share with your family, friends or maybe that special someone, and create the memories that we can only have with food that warms up the soul.

sweet different types of pasta for variety. Their pasta can also be served with either pizza or chicken, or both, and after a hearty meal, you can choose from any of their ice cream flavors, which include flavors like vanilla and cookies and cream. From time to time, their dessert repertoire is also expanded to include pastry, which means no sweet and has practically the same consistency as ice cream.

The Chocolate Kiss Cafe

G/F, Ang Bahay ng Alumni, E. Rodriguez Sr., QUEZON, QC

Hmmm, What Do We Have Here?: American, Filipino, Asian, European (including Italian). Also serves breakfasts and has exclusive menus for its ground and second floor.

Simply the Best: Baked potato, Eggplant Parmigiana, Sara Rival, Red Potato (Potacaine sauce) with Spanish pimentos, Dutch potatoes, grated olives, garlic, leeks and Parmesan cheese simmered in olive oil), Relleno Chiles

The Verdict: Goes by the tag line: "Serving the good stuff," and any UP student can tell you why. This is UP's version of a five-star restaurant, by far the most upscale of dining places in the campus. Whether you're going for breakfast, lunch, merienda or dinner, their food, as many of Choco Kiss' fans say, does hit the spot. My personal favorite would have to be Sara Rival, which is light and buttery, and precisely melts in your mouth once you take that first bite. A bit pricey but definitely worth it.

YUMMY quesadilla

PERSONAL favs, hands down to sans rival

RAMEN penne

FRENCH toast for breakfast, anyone?

Chow bucket

Food that warms up the soul in your friendly neighborhood

By Eunice-Beatrice H. Braga

GOOD FOOD IS THE COOL, woody reserve accompanying a sunny day, the wrinkle-top of hot chocolate that melts in your mouth even as it teases up your stomach, the fluffy pancake fresh

Flaming Wings

218 Katipunan ave., Loyola Heights, QC and Anthor's Nook Diaz, 3624 Taft ave., Malate, Manila

Hmmm, What Do We Have Here?: American

Simply the Best: Chicken Wings and Tenders. Jumbo the Caribbean Jerk sauce and Bleu Cheese dip!).

Pomme Prime (their chicken version of French fries, with a relatively bigger serving), Chicken Parmigiana, Alcholic Oreos, and Warm Brownie a la Mode.

The Verdict: Flaming Wings has earned a steady, decent reputation among Ateneo, Blue Eagles and blokes of all shapes, sizes and appetites for years because of their good food and the generous helpings of munchies. Their wings and tenders can be opened to Original, Mild n' Sweet, Wild, Smokey Hill and Caribbean Jerk sauces, and paired with Bleu Cheese, Aioli, Honey Mustard, Buffalo Mayo, Ranch and Wasabi Mayo dips. The servings are just right and are good for evening hours, beers, or predrinks dinners. However, do not leave without having tried their Melted Oreos or their Warm Brownie a la Mode, Ice cream Flaming Wings does divine desserts well. You would want to take a bag home to share with everyone else.

FLAMING Wings' signature dish, chicken tenders with bleu cheese and carribean jerk sauce

THIS surely is a piece of Yummy sweet

Carnival DESSERT. Warm brownie a la mode for your sugar fix

Cello's Doughnuts and Rings

2/L, WM Bldg., 3068 Katipunan ave., Loyola Heights, QC, and G/F Burgundy Tectonic Place, 2044A Taft Ave., Malate Manila

Simply the Best: Oreo, Cheese, Honey-Glazed, and Chocolate Doughnuts, Cs and Pillows (try the Toblerone dip!), and the Cookies and Cream Ice Cream Creations.

The Verdict: Cello's has garnered word-of-mouth from college students. Its brioches always have that sugary, laid-back feel to them, which makes them an ideal stop for after-school merienda. The cookie-your-own ice cream creations, for example, is a great pick-me-up after a tough exam, and the Oreo and Cheese Doughnuts are just divine, and the dough melts in your mouth perfectly.

NADA BAD ito! Try the choco malino-filled doughnut sprinkled with nuts.

AT CELLO'S, they say "I Love You" differently.

Gonil's Pastry Shop and Restaurant

F1 Level, Trinoma, Edsa cor. North Ave., QC

Hmmm, What Do We Have Here?: Filipino, International

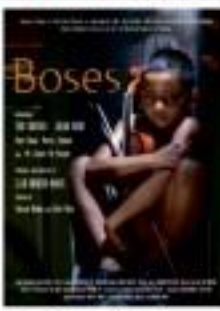
Simply the Best: Leagues Bistilada, Chicken Lollon, Blueberry Cheesecake, Tiramisu, Lemon Squares, Ensa a la Coloum, Choco Overload Cake.

The Verdict: From a well-loved home to the South, Gonil's now has branches up North, and no one could be happier. The Leagues Bistilada reminded me of my parents' cooking when I first tasted a taste of it...it is loyal to the home-cooked recipe that has been passed down from generation to generation. Plus, it's really good. You will want to cap off a good meal with any of their desserts—they have a wide selection...and I highly recommend taking a few home of their bite-size Lemon Squares, which are fruity and sweet without being overpowering. One excellent stand at Gonil's, and you'll know why the restaurant has a cult following.

24/7 Home sweet home SUPER RADAR

Pandaquit festival

Six fairs until the end of the month to schedule a road trip to CASA San Miguel in Panchoqui, Zambales, for the 10th Pandaquit Festival. The event, which has everything from fun activities to film screenings, aims to bring art to the community. A highlight is an exhibit that features digital photos taken by children from the fishing community, who were trained by real-



By Janice Cuenca-Davis and Giancarlo Espinosa

LIVING IN A COUNTRY LIKE THE Philippines is like being in a long-term relationship. It is easy to find things to complain about. Traffic is horrendous, the weather is too humid and the political campaign season never seems to end.

But despite all these, there is still nothing like it. This week, fall in love with the country all over again by checking out events that prove there really is no place like home.

Information is subject to change with our prior notice. For more information on events, log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Natural Energizer at your favorite malls, bars and restaurants. You may also text 24/7 gig to 7806 for Globe, 366 for Smart and 2005 for Sun. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag247@gmail.com for inclusion in the column.

Local beauty

Exclusive, an exhibited artist collective of Filipino artisans, patronize "Pagyabong on" at the Main Gallery of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. See how these artists interpret the rules that women play in society through a mixture of music, dance and art. The exhibit runs until June 21. For further details, contact ACCIARTS.

Serenade nation

The Philippine Opera Company presents "Bayan ko. Cultural Journey" from May 16-30 on the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium located at 24/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati. Allow yourself to be wowed by the voices of some of the country's best talents as they showcase the history of Philippine music from pre-colonial to contemporary. For tickets, please contact Philippine Opera Company (8928706, www.philippineopera.com/pinoy.com) or Ticketworld (8911999, www.ticketworld.com.ph).

IN THIS ISSUE

Boots Anson-Roa looks forward to Marian pilgrimage /G4

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY Special

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LAMBERT AND ALLEN. Close to 1 M million voters were said to decide the winner in their second duel.

Underdog Allen scores upset win over frontrunner Lambert in 'AI' finals

By Nestor U. Torre

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SO, IT'S ALL COME down to this: the eighth season of "American Idol"—the third season still between the "it's not over 'til it's over" Lambert and Kris Allen. Which can tell the show's millions of viewers every bless?

A few weeks ago, that would have been a rhetorical question, since Lambert appeared to be way ahead in the competition, and Allen was supposed to be the one to go after Matt Giraud. But, what happened? Slowly but surely, Allen and his puppydog good looks (interrupted themselves into fans' affections, and he loomed up in the ratings.

The big shocker came two weeks ago, when it was inadvertently revealed that only a million votes separated Lambert and Allen in the tally. That suddenly made Lambert vulnerable, so when the finals round started last Wednesday, it wasn't clear how the last and most crucial leg of the competition would pan out for either finalist.

Lambert started off with "Mad World" and Allen countered with "Isn't She Lovely." Jenny Burton Cowell had good things to say about Lambert's performance, but conceded the Kid "owned" to Allen.

Another story

Round Two was another story: Lambert's rendition of "A Change Is Gonna Come" was both spectacular and, left, while Allen's "What's Goin' On" was relatively phlegmatic.

The last round turned out to be problematic, because it required both singers to sing the same song, "No Boundaries," a new number co-composed by juror Kara DioGuardi. That was a good concept, because both jurors and viewers could compare the two contenders' versions of the song.

Unfortunately, the new number turned out to be a mess in terms of both music and lyrics, so both performers were thrown off. Still, it was clear that Allen suffered the most, because the arrangement made by him was pitched too high, so his performance was quite strained and uncomfortable.

All told, therefore, the finale went to Lambert in terms of performance. But, would the viewers' votes follow the results in the final tally? Would the best performance win?

Key question

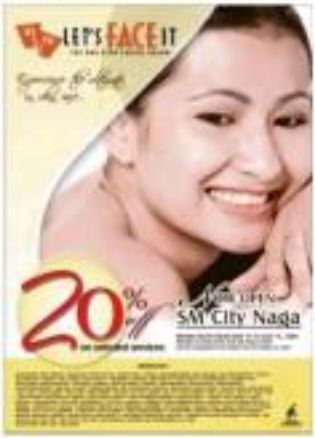
THURSDAY MORNING. The results show's live telecast at 8 a.m. answered that key question—but, the program certainly took its sweet time doing it. It lasted for two full hours!

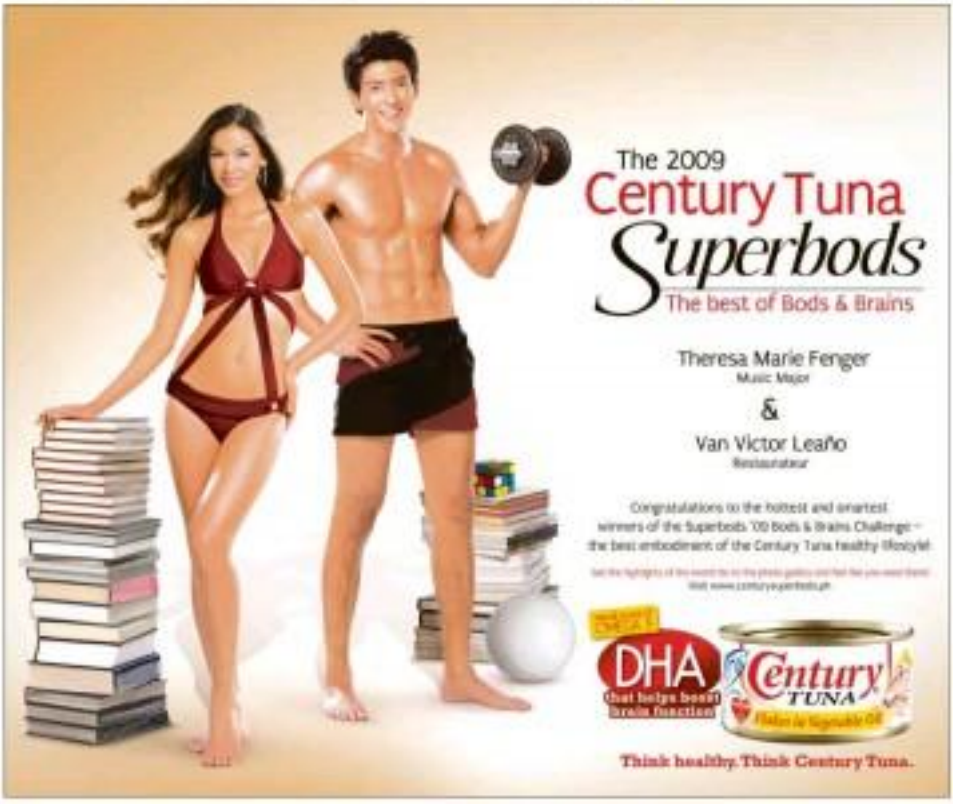
But, the long wait for the results of the Lambert-Allen vocal duel the day before was made more tolerable—and, sometimes, even excruciating—by top production numbers that featured, not just the AI's 12 finalists, but also stars like Kiss, Lionel Richie, Fergie, the Black Eyed Peas, Steve Martin, David Cassidy, Queen Latifah, Keith Urban and Jason Mraz. The Kallow must have been thrilled to be able to perform with Guns 'n Roses' Slash—a musical newsmaker's dream, indeed.

But, the finale show's gazillions of viewers were focused on learning who was America's Idol was. Based on the previous AI's performances, Lambert had done better vocally than Allen, so expectations ran in his favor.

However, when the announcement was

WEDNESDAY G2





NOW SHOWING

Julia Roberts returns in clever hybrid of espionage, romance

By Rito P. Asilo

"Duplicity"
D: Tony Gilroy
S: Julia Roberts, Clive Owen

JULIA ROBERTS KNOWS IT'S NOT ALWAYS time to come on her crowd-pleasing rom-com, drama-laureate, to-tears-of-loss effort. Her re-unite of her frozen toes tolder projects ("Charlie Wilson's War") and anemic roles ("Closer") have been hit and miss, but on points of credibility and grounds, the lower-most of Tinseltown's most popular actress for her ongoing off-big-time.

ROBERTS AND OWEN: Alluring and witty and cutesie-hunter.

Subject matter

In Tony Gilroy's "Duplicity," Julia tackles a seldom-discussed subject matter—corporate espionage—and goes at it as if she's been doing movies with provocative themes all his screen life. The romantic angle that Gilroy cleverly infuses into his spy-versus-spy tale makes it even more accessible to viewers.

In the movie, Roberts plays CIA operative, Claire Stenwick, opposite Owens' Ray Koval, an MI6 spy. Both characters work with the emotional detachment and clockwork efficiency of seasoned sleuths. But when the intelligence agent meet in Dubai, they find their erstwhile inspirations (the "Girlfriend" getting compromised—we probably after a passionate night of romance and fun (after which she steals classified documents from his firm) is counterpart).

Claire and Ray's dilemma touches on post-Eve years later, after the end of their stints with the CIA and MI6. Unfortunately, their sexually-charged reunited meeting finds them at opposing ends of a fierce corporate war between two powerful business tycoons (Tom Wilkinson, Paul Giamatti), who would rule over the proprietorship of a secret lotion product formula that has the potential to generate billions of dollars' worth of revenues for their respective companies. But, this time, the attraction between Ray and Claire gets even stronger. What to do?

The movie's frenetic speed and confusion (storytelling style require viewers to watch attentively as the flick jumps from one time frame to another, and from one surprising twist to the next).

Presence

The movie largely benefits from Gilroy's intelligent and light handling of its potentially heavy subject matter. It takes full advantage of its charismatic leads' undeniable screen presence, as well as the emotionally wary and roasty banter and teasing quips that fly between the lovely Julia and the dashing Clive.

Roberts and Owen's combustible chemistry allow scenes to segue seamlessly from cerebral thriller to the heart-warming romance that unwittingly develops—and threatens—between two world-weary pawns who find love when they least expect it. But, if you think you know how their story ends, think again!

Paraluman was ahead of her time

By Rolan Cervantes

PARALUMAN
Mysterious

WHEN I WAS young, I was attracted to Filipino movies because of love team titles between Amalia Fuentes and Eva Montes, the sizzling pair Filipino-German medical. I was never enamored with love because I knew her moves, freedom and fearless love team. Eva Montes was able to screen her expressive skills because she was a child star.

My two other idols, Aurora Salvador, also another Filipino, to reveal to these their screaming traits on when they competed in the Final Collegiate against other top entertainers like Hayden Coleto and the Tirol sisters. However, I was most thrilled when I watched their superb ballet numbers. Plus, the separate combo career of, next to delightful to the Amalia-con movements in those grand MGM specials.

Celluloid hero

I was enthralled by these lovely, talented ladies because my favorite Hollywood star, after all, was Esther Williams, the smiling, great athlete-turned beauty who was, to my mind, equal to my celluloid hero, Johnny Weissmuller, who portrayed Tarzan, the King of the Jungle on screen.

When I learned that Paraluman was the first movie star like her sisters, I became more intrigued by this sophisticated lady who smoked and drank in her movies. She was the epitome of the worldly woman who was ahead of her time.

Whatever details I learned about her personal life were equally intriguing. She had, for example, a daughter, Karina, with a Japanese actor, after the Pacific War. She married Tony O'Brien, who adopted Rhoda, who would grow up to be the entertainment personality we now know as Jody O'Brien.

Since memorials and tributes were more discreet in those days, they left personal matters unsatisfied. So, Paraluman, the socialite, was able to screen her mysterious life from the eyes of the country's Gloria Gayles, because of her first husband, unquestionable eyes and her "I want to be alone" reason.

Contemporaries

She was tall and shapely too, and loving emotions, she dated lots, lots to show her fine form on screen. The German movies spoke excellent Spanish and English. Even her contemporaries at Lumpinee Stadium, when she dated her Filipino, which is one of her Fe Barbara Perez, Rhonda was applauded. Robert Arevalo described, "Paraluman was a natural beauty."

As a young girl, Paraluman was a movie addict who climbed over a wall to get a glimpse of her neighbor, actress Consuelo Noble, who once, Lily noted the gorgeous mestiza and told producer Luis Nepomuceno about their stunning neighbor when she was merely 17.

Sigrid, Paraluman's real name, was then enchantressed Miss de Rosas, but Fernando Poe Jr. was the first to have helped her in his studio, Iloilo Films, and changed her screen name again to Paraluman. She married with all the movie icons of her time—Leopoldo Salcedo, Rogelio de la Rosa, Fred Montilla, etc.

Fortunately, she passed away at age 85. Fortunately, many of her wonderful vintage photos continue to remind movie fans that, once upon a time, there lived a beautiful actress most aptly named Paraluman.

Great-tasting burgers

WORD OF MOUTH
Sandy Daza

THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A DEBATE about which establishment offers the best-tasting burgers in the country. I classify burgers into two main types: The type of Manhattan burger and the well-standing variety. Apart from the aforementioned two, there's also the snack and meal burgers.

An American burger is a thick, blood drunk oil-pressed beef patty with 80 percent meat and 15 percent fat. On its own, it's already mouthwatering. But, with condiments like ketchup, mustard, relish, tomatoes, mayo, cheese, garlic and pan-seared bun goes, this simple dish can turn into a memorable gastronomic experience.

Quality

The quality of the well-standing burger relies solely on the taste of the thick and juicy hamburger patty. Here, the subtlety and consistency of the chef comes into play. Condiments are minimal, and the main focus is on the burger itself.

Then, we also have the snack burgers, like Jollibee's Double Yum. Personally, I prefer my burger without cheese, which only competes with the taste of the burger. After an exciting evening game of badminton, I love a blue-cheese burger with crimson fries and garlic mayo dip from Wham Burger. There we only two burgers I like with cheese: The Double Whopper from Burger King and, occasionally, the Big Mac Monster.

One of the best burgers I've ever tasted is the one available at the coffee shop and lobby lounge of the Eastern Hero World Hotel (now the Renaissance). These burgers are huge with a sinking of freshly baked buns—another self-standing burger I like without condiments. I love to savor its juicy meat, characterized by a unique flavor that lingers in your mouth.

The yellow juice that come into the bread gives it a taste beyond description. The burger meat bread is baked fresh, and its patty is a thick, juicy chunk of imported ground beef. On its own, the burger stands as a delicious meal, without condiments. And, the way the hotel's restaurant assembles it is perfection—the best burgers I have ever tasted! Moreover, this burger contains a special spice I'd like all the foodies out there to identify. Check it out. It's superb!

If you know of any great-tasting burgers out there, share them with me.

Happy eating!

E-mail: sandydaza@yahoo.ca

EXCLUSIVE
OPENS JUNE 3 AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
"A rock-solid biopic with a foolproof rise-and-fall storyline..." — VARIETY
"Terrific performances, powerful soundtrack & eye-catching visuals..." — THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
"Managed to stun, unsettle & move me..." — NEWSWEEK
GREENBELT

Underdog

Finnegan Gil

finally made, it was Eric Albert's name that was chiseled forth—and all hell broke loose.

Well, that's the way the "Al" rocker remembers "Underdog" was ever more vocally gifted beatmaster "Blame" it, possibly, on the fact that the show is watched by the most part by children and not grit, who find fun in cute and handsome. Besides, he sings pretty well, too, doesn't he? Rather limited vocal range, but still it's quite natural. . . .

Vocal range

Most to the point, why did Lombardi? Was his "Wanted" style too flashy for mainstream movie fans? Did he vent too much, too long, to show off his fantastic vocal range? Did his dark raid polish ruin some of his more sensual and sexy-ish? Did rumors about his sexes drowning your dollars from his sympathizers up, pun?

Those issues will be discussed to death in the next few weeks, and hours "Al" hopefully should listen long and hard if they want to win the next vote in Pinoy editions of the popular OK.

Fans of Albert Lombardi shouldn't worry, though. He's one time he'd the all-important title, but he's still on his way to musical stardom. Like that other "Al" mover-up, Clay Aiken, he could still end up a winner in his own right, and become even more popular than the title's official tenor. In the mean bystander go the spoils!

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'Terminator' director on Bale's rant, Schwarzenegger's nude comeback

BALE. Taphili-Lucas was irritated at set-6 Hamilton.

LOS ANGELES—IN A RECENT interview, a reporter's question to "Terminator Salvation's" director, McG, about the much-talked-about on-set outburst of his star, Christian Bale, provoked a long and passionate defense from the filmmaker.

McG, whose daring gamble to direct the fourth film of the sci-fi series seems to be paying off (Variety's review proclaimed "McG's direction is always intelligent"), gallantly said that it was all in fun. The director of the two "Charlie's Angels" movies, attempting to boost his directing reputation by taking on a more distinctively rooted by Jesse Ganeva, explained that he encouraged the tension on the set to intensify the dramatic conflict for a scene they were filming.

As many folks know, Christian, who plays John Connor, exploded on an invective-filled rant at Shane Hurlbut, the movie's cinematographer, for straying into his sightline during a scene. The audio clip, lasting almost four minutes, was passed on TMZ.com and many cable shows almost ever since. Left on YouTube, McG does not want the blame for not making sure such leaks were prevented.

Safe environment

"I'm to blame for the whole thing, because first and foremost, it's my job to create a safe environment on the set at all times, so the actors can explore any given emotion," McG explained. "I always believe in the sanctity of the film set. I've zero tolerance for anybody who jeopardizes that environment. I'm responsible for everything. It's really my responsibility."

He continued, "I set in the translation of my ethos at the director table. We're unlikely to lose our head, get a little uptight, and if that ever takes out of control...I would even wildly affirmative. In great many ways, this is a true success. So, if I'm on the set getting in Christian's face saying, 'You better get your f*****g s**t together and you better fire up and realize you believe that your life is in danger. Now, get off your f*****g ass, Christian, and show me something,' that's going to get him to a place where he's very fired up and in the spirit of creating a credible and decent performance. It's never meant to go outside of that arena.

"It's no different than Kate Winslet in 'Titanic.' There's a wonderful scene where Kate chooses to be naked in their falling in love with DiCaprio's Jack. Believe me, there was a moment on that set when the robe came off, with her body looking less than flattering and the cameras rolling, but she had to trust that that was never going to get out in the public consciousness. If there are takes that got out on TMZ, she wouldn't have been very embarrassed.

"People shouldn't accuse Christian of being a bad guy. He's a great actor but he's not a bad guy; he loves his family. He has no revenge—...he's an actor's actor. He delivers as an event like that in an old-fast-up pickup truck. He operates from a place of passion.

Look

"I'm informed and reinformed on behalf of Hollywood that a look would happen, because the last thing we all want in film that is to have actors saying, 'Hey I'm Al Pacino. I don't want to put my face in all that cocaine for a scene—that's stupid! Think I got a problem in real life.' You're Tony Montana, a cocaine dealer. You have to do it!

"I don't trust 'Hell.' That's very bad for all of us. It's not in the interest of great art, so it's a sad day. Look at 'Watchmen.' An prudence' joke. The whole film got leaked out! What's in my if it hurt or helped the film? You get my drift! It has become fashionable for people who work in postproduction houses to say, 'Hey, look at what I found. I'm going to be this big exec, and I'm going to look this out.' It's nasty and dramatic.

Set in 2018, "Terminator Salvation" is, as McG mentioned, a new movie that pays homage to Cameron and his friend Schwarzenegger (who famously played the first 'Terminator model) by featuring a character scanned from the actor's images in "The Terminator." The people at Industrial Light & Magic (ILM)—trusted team who from those scans and came up with a photorealistic Schwarzenegger who makes a digital cameo appearance in "Terminator Salvation."

Asked if the Governator knew that his CG-enhanced likeness is going to appear naked on the new movie, McG replied, "He's very jaundiced his physique. If you look at his ex-movie closely at the DVD extension of that first movie, he is indeed naked in it (laughter). He knew the whole time, but he said, 'Hey, I have to use it before I can give you my approval.' So, we had to keep working on it, and ILM had to develop a code to render Arnold from the first picture. It required a great deal of diligence to do it in photorealistic capacity."

Prognosis

McG added, "When we finally got done in Bangkok, we put it in front of Governor Schwarzenegger. He became very excited about what it was. Now, he's a very vocal proponent of what you've done."

"Terminator Salvation" (the cast here Peter Bergen and James Hibbs) launch these two guys break out this year). Melissa Rosenberg Carter, Bryce Dallas Howard, hip-hop star Common and Moon Bloodgood.

E-mail mmpatrio_3065@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Stupidest Report," at http://blogs.inquirer.net/stupidestreport/.

Hoping for redemption

LOTUS POND

SOMETIMES, WE lose hope that we can change for the better. We find hopeless that bad people can become good. Some reasons why we shouldn't give up hope.

By nature, we're all spoiled of the hopeless—we're inherently wise, good. By and good. But, because of free will, we're given the freedom to rebel and thus fall into false gods and worship.

By unconventional yoga or prayerful meditation, we can get cleansed from sinful contaminations and placed in a comfortable love and peace.

Spiritual love

By humble moral exemption and speaking of transcendental subject matter, a more hardened heart can melt...and he will more the sweet nectar of spiritual love.

By engaging in selfless and compassionate activities, you will find deep meaning and purpose.

By having faith and patience in the right kind process, you will relish the sweet fruit of pure love.

By having hope and determination, a man receives the blessings and guidance of the Supreme, who provides support and the means to succeed.

"There's hope for everyone, because each one is loved by the Supreme Being. Every single soul counts—and He will never give up trying to bring His children home.

SATURDAY Special

Bold choices in Billy Crawford's covers album

By Rito P. Asido

BILLY CRAWFORD'S DECISION TO return to the Philippines and make the country his home base is something that needs to be examined by other homegrown performers. Hope, we don't see the move as a desertion, but a wise career gambit—and a sterling example of humility. Besides, there's nothing better than performing for your own people and winning their approval.

CRAWFORD: Tackles tunes that are beautiful but difficult to sing.

"Seasons," Billy's latest album of covers, could have a hard time finding enthusiastic approval, even from Manila music fans. The pop-flavored collection boasts of 10 shoddy-produced kinks that deter their unified sound from the soulful, robust performer's current R&B-flavored singing style and full-bodied plays.

What sets Billy's compilations apart from many other all-covers albums in the market is the bold choice of songs in the hefty and impressive repertoire. A good number of tunes in the lineup are undoubtedly beautiful, but they're not the easiest to sing. They include Michael Jackson's "Rock With You" and "Human Nature," Earth Wind and Fire's "Let's Groove," Marvin Gaye's "Mercy Mercy Me" and Brian McKnight's "One Last Cry."

Youthful vigor

His covers are not necessarily better than the original versions, but we're happy to note that Billy doesn't embarrass himself in them. In fact, he plays the songs fresh, unbounded, that helps with energy, interpretive performance and youthful vigor.

Other than the aforementioned tracks, other notable ones include "Stand Away," "Never Let Her Slip Away," "How Deep Is Your Love," "Could It Be I'm Falling in Love?" Most notably his remakes of Bill Withers' "Lovely Day" and El DeBarge's "Rhythm of My Heart" are tasteful pop rendezvous.

Billy collaborates with Olivia Ong on Carole King's "You've Got a Friend," which showcases their couple's sweet chemistry.

So, if you're looking for a pop-music album that doesn't sound derivative or resolutely old-fashioned, Billy's "Seasons" is for you.

Music is where the heart is for Claire Belliones

By Nestor Torre

BELLIONES: Gifted parents.

FOR MANY PEOPLE in this country, the road to a better life is a careful, unchewable course. Parents encourage their children to study for in-demand jobs, and you'll hardly—if ever—hear anyone urging his or her child to pursue a career in the arts. So we entered young pianist, Claudette Belliones, however, it's music or nothing—and she doesn't plan on being a starving artist, either.

Family

"Piano and violin also my music," she shares, "but my family didn't think I was really going to pursue it." Unlike most Pinoy classical musicians, Claire doesn't come from a musical family, and her parents have made it a rule not to play at a talent show.

It all started when her mother, a domestic worker in Hong Kong, would visit her

Joyce Jimenez's competitive advantage

JOYCE JIMENEZ HASN'T BEEN makes popular, so people will a movie in years, but she re- keep track of her activities. They

known that she's pregnant with her first child and wish her and her husband, Paul Ely Ogbuhi, well.

Montage

In the meantime, the manager for local lingerie direct-selling business Tri (pictured) with lover Hilbert Castanares) from the States. Xia, her being the advocate of the PLDT SME Nation Negative Boost couldn't have come at a better time.

With PLDT SME Nation Negosyo Hotel, start-up medium businesses like Janeen's can enjoy the competitive advantage of having both broadband connectivity and business-enabling hardware devices like notebooks and printers in one convenient package.

Unfortunately for her firm, Joyce's absence from show biz is only temporary. After she delivers her baby (this October) and her mommy duties ease up, she expects to go back to film acting...preferably in an action movie, with her doing some of the actions!

Open auditions

On May 29 at 5 p.m. at the CCP's Dream Theater, auditions will be held for child and adult

JIMENEZ...that advocacy couldn't have come at a better time.

actors for the Cinema One Originals production, "Si Boang, Si Muy-Muy at ang Aasog at Bobo," to be staged by Mike Tuviera. For details, contact Kat at 0926.888.2228 or e-mail aasog.bobo@gmail.com.

Globetrotters at Sun Shops

Today from 2 to 5 p.m., the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters will hold basketball exhibition team visits and signature sessions at Sun Shops of San Lazaro at Balintawak Cubao, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza, Trinoma, SM North Edsa, SM Mall of Asia and SM Megamall. Sun subscribers can also see the Harlem Globetrotters perform at a discounted rate at Araneta Coliseum on May 24 at 3 and 7 p.m., and May 25 at 7 p.m.

On Animal Planet

Tomorrow at 8 p.m., "Chloe's Last Elephants" documentary. Grace Gabriel's campaign to conserve the last few elephants left in the jungles of Yunnan, China.

Pinoy Idol

Today at 6 p.m., the finals night of Showtime's Pinoy Idol. SM '09 will be held at the Skydome of SM North Edsa.

Music is where...

From page 1

the Hong Kong Cultural Center and host members of the wonderful music that was being made inside. Determined to give her child something beyond basic sustenance and dreaming of hearing the same kind of music in her own home, she paid for Claire to take up piano lessons.

Identity

"I took music for granted at first," Claire recalls, "and it wasn't until college that I made the conscious decision that this was something I was going to take seriously for life. You can't take being an artist out of your identity."

Claire recently graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree, major in Piano, from the Philippine Women's University under the mentorship of prominent concert pianist, Annemary Dronsard-Cruz.

Claire was offered a partial scholarship to a Master's Degree in Piano Performance at the University of Alberta. She is set to fly to Canada later this year. In the meantime, she's working hard to raise the rest of the needed funds.

Solo performer

One of the ways she's doing it is by doing what she does best: Playing the piano. Claire was featured in the solo performer in the month's show in the Thursday Concert Series at the CCP Museum.

Talent, passion and ambition rarely go hand in hand, but when they do, it's something to see—and hear.

Barrio doctors pay it forward

IT WAS LIKE CHRISTMAS FOR THE FIVE medical scholars from West Visayas State University who attended the recent luncheon get-together of the Pilot Intellicom Foundation's "Bagong Bukas Para sa Bayan" project at Heroes Hall in Malacañang. The students got financial assistance on their tuition and allowances in their Fourth and fifth years.

MEDICAL scholars with (seated, from left) Dr. Ma. Victoria Villareal and Professor Clarissa Matos.

Jaya Atkinson, president of the foundation, shared that many of the scholars in the project's first three batches were beyond their two-year commitment to serve in the country's poorest communities.

As a barrio doctor, Dr. Leonel Hue, who was assigned to Sitio Sumagdal, had first-hand experience with the armed conflict there. Nevertheless, he found his experience enriching, exciting and fulfilling.

Challenging

Dr. Paolo Papilino, assigned to San Isidro, Isabela, finds his experience even challenging. He performs surgery and consults a psychiatric patient, on top of seeing many patients every day. But, he says there's not enough medicine to give away.

Elder Arroyo, overwhelmed by the assistance of the first batch, announced that he will add 50 more scholars for 2010. Inspired of watching abroad, the scholars were encouraged by the Pilot Gentlemen to pay it forward by securing loans and serving the country, because this is where their services are most needed.

* * *

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Boots...

From page B1

Bernadette Sicobboca, Boots Santos forward to interacting with devotees from all over the world, specifically with the volunteers who spend months each year in London to help take care of the sick and disabled. Two of her close friends have done that, as well, so she hopes that, after that visit to Lourdes, she can also join them as a volunteer next year.

Spirituality

As a follow-up to Lourdes, the group now heads for Norcia to visit St. Bernadette's tomb there. It's on to Loreto, home of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, which Boots visited last year. Her niece has high school now, Boots has been drawn to St. Therese's simple, "hidden" spirituality.

During her last hour, Therese's long illness, she would recount to only sit. She could for "signs of discernment," and felt epic loyalty of flowers when they came her way. For this and other reasons, Boots is sure the spiritual power of the St. Therese Cathedral exists.

On Day 14, the pilgrimage winds up at Pitié, where it is to spawn a cultural discussion with a visit to the Ceramic museum and other museum cities, before the group's departure. Mass at the Chapel of the Miraculous is scheduled.

Call Ephesus Travel and Tours at 632-527-3201, fax 731-6974, mobile 0917-8934307, e-mail to ask@ephesustravel.com, chat: mandy.arroyo.

Boots may be reached at 404-9000, or e-mail her at mdb@hotmail.com.

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GALLERIA

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	6 HOUSE
2 ANGELS & DEMONS	7 WOLVERINE / STAR TREK XI
3 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND	8 LITSONERO
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	9 HEAVENLY TOUCH
5 ANGELS & DEMONS	10 BFF: BESTFRIEND FOREVER

ERMITA

	4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	5 BFF: BEST FRIEND FOREVER
2 ANGELS & DEMONS	6 HOUSE
3 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND	7 LITSONERO

METRO EAST

1 ANGELS & DEMONS	5 ANGELS & DEMONS
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	6 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
3 BFF: BEST FRIEND FOREVER	7 LITSONERO
4 HOUSE	8 DED NA SI LOLO

NOVALICHES

1 ANGELS & DEMONS	3 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	4 LITSONERO

PIONEER

1 ANGELS & DEMONS	3 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	4 HOUSE

STA. ROSA

1 ANGELS & DEMONS	1 ANGELS & DEMONS
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	2 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER
3 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER	3 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
4 MAJOR MOVIE STAR	4 THEY WAIT

LIPA

DASMARINAS

1 ANGELS & DEMONS	1 ANGELS & DEMONS
2 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER	2 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	3 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER
4 MAJOR MOVIE STAR	4 MAJOR MOVIE STAR

IMUS

ANGELES

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE	3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
2 BFF: BESTFRIEND FOREVER	4 STAR TREK

STARMILLS

1 ANGELES & DEMONS	4 MAJOR MOVIE STAR
2 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER	5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
3 ANGELES & DEMONS	6 17 AGAIN

BACOLOD

1 ANGELS & DEMONS	1 ANGELS & DEMONS
2 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER	2 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
4 STAR TREK	4 MAJOR MOVIE STAR
5 DED NA SI LOLO	5 DED NA SI LOLO
6 THEY WAIT	6 17 AGAIN

ILOILO

Boots joins pilgrimage to Marian and eucharistic miracle sites in Europe

By Nestor U. Torre

BOOTS ANDONGA IS SO busy with her many different concerns (as TV5/Hot Asian Cooking Channel head, teacher, endorser, radio program host, etc.) that she has a hard time finding a big enough window of opportunity for her to take a much-needed break.

Then October, however, she's putting everything on hold to go on a "much-needed" spiritual journey, a unique pilgrimage to the most significant Marian and miracle sites of Europe—in Italy, Spain, Portugal and France.

Boots is excited about this particular pilgrimage now organized by Hotel Bantude and Ephesus Travel and Tours, because she's been a Marian devotee since childhood. In addition, she's played the Blessed Virgin Mary in so many productions that she's lost count.

So, her dream to visit the Marian apparition sites of Fatima and Lourdes and other religious sites in Europe, hence her enthusiasm for the Oct. 17-31 pilgrimage, set just for herself for for other devotees, as well.

The "Miracle and Eucharistic Miracle Sites" pilgrimage starts off in Rome and the Vatican, and Boots observes that this is a good way to begin, because it enables pilgrims to connect with "the roots and graves of the Catholic faith."

Spiritual journey

The next leg of the spiritual journey is personally significant to Boots, because it takes her group to San Giovanni Rotondo, where Padre Pio lived and died. Boots' namesake Padre Pets, was devoted to St. Pio, so Boots' gratitude to the saint is strong. She will also produce a documentary on St. Pio for the St. Padre Pio Center and Prime, the foundation she put up to perpetuate Pete's most cherished inventiveness.

The first Eucharistic miracle site on the itinerary is Lanciano, where the holy host turned into flesh and blood, wine was transformed into blood. Then, on to Assisi, where St. Francis lived. Boots recalls that the saint's beautiful prayer ("Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace...") moved her so much when she first read it that she's made it one of her spiritual guideposts ever since.

She also feels an affinity to St. Clare, so she's looking forward to viewing the preserved saint's incorrupt body.

From Italy to Spain: The pilgrimage takes Barcelona and Montserrat for their religious sites, including the Segunda Familia and the famous Basilica of the Black Virgin (Virgen Montserrat). Boots extolls the strong spiritual and cultural links between Spain and the Philippines, as she's eager to affirm those ties for herself.

Lineup

Next, the pilgrim group runs to five Marian apparition sites, Fatima in Portugal. Boots says a special significance to Fatima, because the Blessed Virgin Mary chose to appear there to three children, indicating that power and message mean nothing to Her, and that She's everybody's Mother.

In France, the Filipino pilgrims first visit Lourdes, where the Virgin appeared to a simple village girl.

ROOTS SU

LAST year, Boo visited the cathedral in Cursisi, where the tomb of St. Francis is enshrined. She looks forward to going to Lisieux again this October.

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7PM TALENTADONG PINOY
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